

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

DEPENDENCE NO DEGRADATION.

IN our last paper we ventured upon a somewhat nearer examination of what is very commonly regarded as the main flaw in the voluntary principle. We found that, by a process of mystification often resorted to in controversy, sometimes unwittingly, too frequently of set purpose, the system whose merits we are seeking to commend is charged with the natural imperfection of the agent entrusted with its execution; and that a spontaneous tendency in men invested with the responsibilities of spiritual teaching, to accommodate the tenor of their instructions to the tone, intellectual and moral, of their respective hearers, exists and operates quite independently of the principle which regulates their own worldly maintenance. Voluntaryism, in common with establishments, offers a temptation to the unhallowed indulgence of this tendency—but voluntaryism, at the same time, provides many wholesome checks upon the propensity under notice—and, submitted to the test of experience, appears to have conduced to the evil far less than the plan of a state provision for the clergy. We may, consequently, dismiss the charge as a gross exaggeration, even were it substantially true—and were it fully proved to the extent covered by the indictment, we are bound to declare that it is irrelevant, inasmuch as it bears with equal force against every other system. The crack is not in the voluntary principle, but in human nature—and through it corruption will leak out in the preaching of Christianity, whatever may be the plan adopted for the support of a religious ministry. Facts demonstrate that the forced maintenance of the clergy does nothing whatever to remove the original flaw.

It may not be amiss, ere we take leave of that district of our subject about which we have lingered perchance too long, to notice one other objection to the voluntary principle said to make its appearance in this quarter. The teachers of revealed religion, it is said, cannot, without detriment both to themselves and to their usefulness, be made to occupy a position incompatible with due self-respect. The annoyances and mortifications to which dependence upon the voluntary offerings of their flocks must of necessity expose them, tend to break down in them all manliness of spirit. To subsist upon the mere good-will of others is felt to be degrading—and he who is compelled to appear before his hearers *in formâ pauperis*, must soon lose sight of all the nobler motives by which man's heart is actuated, and sink into the habits of a mere mercenary.

Softly there!—tread softly, we pray you, abettors of a church establishment, upon this ground! The less, perhaps, said by you on such a subject the better. We have heard much from reverend dignitaries of a certain state church, touching the necessity of retaining as part of the system such splendid prizes as may prove a sufficient lure to nobles and gentlemen to undertake the functions of the Christian ministry. We have seen recorded in the page of history, and even exemplified in actual life, some illustrations of the fact, that even state-supported ecclesiastics do, at times, stoop to pay some regard to the "labourer's hire," and that the collection of tithes is not wholly free from annoyances which degrade as well as vex the unhappy subject of them. But we waive the right of retort for the sake of dealing with the false principle involved in the objection. When the tap-root is severed we may very safely leave the twigs to die of themselves.

And here let us guard ourselves, at starting, against the possibility of being misapprehended. Self-respect we hold to be an essential element of truly valuable character. No perennial virtue can root itself in a soil destitute of this component quality. He who can consent to degrade himself in his own judgment will be caught by any designing agent clever enough to hit upon the right bait. Such a man wants one of the main safeguards of human virtue—under no circumstances may he be relied upon. His character is without a backbone, and he will be just what surrounding influences may chance to fashion him. He may prove to be both amiable and useful, for he may possibly fall into good hands. But he will, at any rate, be nothing more than a puppet, whose course will be determined by the views of whatever party may

happen to pull the strings. If, consequently, it can be shown that the dependence of a Christian teacher upon the voluntary offerings of his people is, essentially, a humiliating position—if, of necessity, it involve a sense of self-degradation—if it require a surrender of aught which man is bound to retain, or impose conditions revolting to a well-regulated and, we may add, an independent mind—then is the objection above-stated, in our judgment, a fatal one—and the voluntary principle is proved to be out of tune with human nature, at least in so far as the ministers of truth are concerned.

It may be allowed us, then, to hint that there is a deference to the world's judgment in this and kindred matters which mimics self-respect, but which is, in reality, a totally different thing. The one differs as much from the other as seringa leaves do from cucumbers, or burnt quill from roast beef, which, in taste, they somewhat resemble. Because, in this aristocratic country, pecuniary independence is made the test of respectability, and men are estimated, not by what they are, but what they are worth, it does not follow that the pride which sensitively shrinks from the imputation of poverty or of dependence is entitled to take rank with true self-respect. The deference, in such case, is paid, not to the dignity of one's own nature, but to the force of the world's opinion—and the more profound the deference, the more alien is the feeling from what religion approves. We may take the liberty of adding, moreover, that this impeachment of the voluntary principle is not without an aspect of reckless hardihood that tells but little in favour of its justice. The "successors of the apostles," who are so forward to prefer it, might surely pause a moment to reflect that the men from whom they profess to derive their claims seemed to live and to labour in happy unconsciousness of the degradation to which they willingly submitted; and that He, whose self-respect was never trenching upon, discerned nothing unbecoming in receiving, at the hands of a few females in the lower walks of life, a scanty and precarious subsistence. The pride of a gentleman is very far from being the dignity of a man.

It is not pretended that the teachers of Christianity debase themselves by their acceptance of temporal subsistence in return for spiritual instruction. The arguments which are employed to establish the propriety of an unpaid ministry it is not difficult to understand, readily as, in our opinion, they may be met and refuted. Here, however, it is admitted to be a divinely ordained law, that "they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel." The force of the objection is directed against, not the reception of wages, but the mode of their collection. The derogation from self-respect, regarded as the fruit of depending for support on the voluntary principle, involves a double falsehood—it virtually asserts that it is more consonant with true dignity to take perforce than to receive from good will; and that men, whose maintenance, given although it be in compensation for services performed, is proffered by willing gratitude, rather than secured by legal authority, are thereby placed under humiliating obligation to their flocks. The first implication needs to be stated only to insure its own condemnation. The second requires a moment's notice.

It is certainly not the least of the evils resulting from a church establishment in this country, that the relative duties of congregations to ministers are so ill understood and so inadequately appreciated. A large proportion of those who, in the present day, compose the community of dissenters, have left the national church, bringing with them, uncorrected, many of the notions and feelings engendered by the system with which they have been familiar. They have been habituated to regard the support of the means of religious instruction as no concern of theirs—and they are extremely apt, in consequence, to regard what is given to the minister of whose services they avail themselves, as an offering of charity, not a payment in justice. To any other source than that indicated above, it is impossible to trace so anomalous a state of feeling. The parties most deeply tainted with it are not devoid of honourable dispositions in other matters. They would not, even for a moment, consent to receive either for themselves or for their families, secular instruction, without recognising their obligation to tender pecuniary acknowledgment. It is only in respect of spiritual

teaching that any such disreputable notions obtain—and the prevalence of them can only be accounted for by the habits of mind produced by a state church. That they are obviously unjust, a moment's reflection may suffice to satisfy us. To the annoyance occasioned by such injustice, the ministers of truth are in the present day, we are bound to allow, too frequently exposed. The evil, however, is but temporary—they who suffer from it most severely, need surrender nothing due to the most sensitive self-respect—and, fairly considered, it must be set down, with all its accompanying mischiefs, not to the voluntary principle, but to the long reign of a religious establishment. Throw Christianity upon its own resources, and what is now too commonly looked upon as a favour conferring obligations, will be recognised as a debt imposed by favours already conferred. The efficient pastor—and no other would be long tolerated—would be felt to have a claim, stronger than law could give him, upon the liberal support of his flock; and both teachers and taught would more correctly understand and more habitually discharge their relative duties.

THE DYING THROES OF CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

LABOURING, for the most part, as we have done, with quenchless zeal and unflagging purpose, in disseminating a knowledge of right principles, and leaving to our contemporaries the business of making passing comments upon passing ecclesiastical affairs, we have neither been unobservant nor indifferent spectators of the thickening "signs of the times." Every week brings out, to our minds, in more vivid and startling distinctness the handwriting on the wall against religious establishments—and even the most unskilled in the interpretation of providential intimations may now read their not distant doom. Puseyism in England and Non-intrusionism in Scotland are, by a different process, effecting a rupture of the tie which binds together church and state. It would seem as though the separation were destined to be brought about in each instance, not by external pressure, but by internal convulsion. Puseyism is growing too intensely clerical for the spirit of the age—presbyterianism, too pious for the cramping framework of an establishment. The first would render a national church a mere thing of frivolous manipulations and priestly assumption—the other would make it a more spiritual thing than its essential nature will admit of. Both are rebelling against their lord and master—both becoming too noisy and troublesome to be much longer borne.

The position of the church of Scotland at this moment is, perhaps, the most absurd which can well be imagined. Claiming a right to legal maintenance, she has asserted her superiority to legal control. The decisions of her "general assembly," anent the disposal of the property she enjoys by the favour of the civil authorities of the realm, are in the very teeth of law, as interpreted by its highest officers. What does she do as soon as this fact is ascertained? Assert her independence and resign her teinds? Nothing of the kind. Her independence, indeed, she asserts loudly enough—denounces patronage as an impiety to which she cannot submit—raves against the ungodliness of the powers who force it upon her—bemoans in most pathetic strains of lamentation the divine judgments which have overtaken her, and the deep afflictions into which she is plunged—talks incoherently of her day of persecution, and reminds herself of the duty of patiently submitting to reproaches, to cruel mockings, to mysterious calamities—but the teinds, the money, the worldly patrimony, sole cause of all her trials, the Pandora box out of which issue all her woes and misfortunes—these she persists in retaining. Why, the whole matter lies in a nutshell, and does not require minutes of many yards in length to develop it in its whole extent. Let the church of Scotland give up state pay, and the church of Scotland will be as independent of civil courts as her heart can wish. The quarrel ultimately resolves itself into one of pin-money; and, successfully as the leading non-intrusionists may conceal this from themselves and others, they can make nothing better of it essentially.

There cannot be the smallest doubt that what is called lay patronage is a very unscriptural thing. No church, having a proper sense of its own dignity, and of the allegiance it owes to its divine Head, can consent to recognise in any man, be he

laid or be he not, a right to assign to it, according to his own caprice, a spiritual pastor. Viewing the matter in this light, one is disposed to sympathise most heartily with men who consent with becoming spirit this obtrusion of the world upon the church. But this is not, unfortunately for the honour of the kirk of Scotland, the precise aspect of her present position. From time immemorial, she was accustomed to take the provision granted her by the state, clogged with this unseemly condition. It is only of late that she became fairly awake to the sin of consenting to such a humiliation, and her struggle ever since has been to annul the condition, and to keep the teinds. To this her ally is not disposed to submit, and Sir James Graham's reply, a digest of which we gave in our columns last week, may be translated into one brief sentence—"If the church of Scotland will have a legal provision, she must have with it also lay patronage." Of course she must. What other object can civil governments have in view in the maintenance of burdensome ecclesiastical establishments, but the disposal through various aristocratic channels of that immense amount of patronage which they necessarily create? How else could they control the complex machinery, and make it subserve the purposes for which it is upheld?

What then, in this dilemma, will the kirk of Scotland do? Wink at the sin she has denounced, or resign the funds she has enjoyed? One of these she must determine upon. To do the first will destroy what remains to her of moral influence. Her condemnation of the system of patronage has been so loud and so emphatic, that her acquiescence in it now would be fatal to her claims upon the confidence of her own members. Her resignation of state support would best become her dignity, but is far from being what she meant, when she commenced her conflict with civil authority. But, whether she does the first or the last, she will deal out a heavier blow against the principle of religious establishments, than, in the present posture of affairs, they will be able to sustain. Both she and her proud sister of England will soon learn the truth of the proverb, "The beginning of strife is the letting out of many waters."

THE BIBLE SOCIETY AND ITS BOOKBINDERS.

We have received a circular headed "British and Foreign Bible Society. Address of the Journeymen Bookbinders of London and Westminster to the Religious Public." To our minds it is an affecting document—deeply affecting, in every sense. Most heartily are we grieved to see so noble an institution, as the Bible society, not merely brought under disrepute, but placed in jeopardy, by the ill-concealed inconsistency of its committee of management. Upon their conduct in relation to the Bible-printing monopoly, we have reluctantly but unshrinkingly commented more than once. How men, charged by a large constituent body, and laid under yet more serious obligation by providential position, to circulate, at the cheapest possible rate, the sacred volume, could reconcile it with Christian principle, to wink at an arbitrary arrangement, by which, for the unhallowed gain of an individual monopolist, the price of the scriptures was seriously enhanced—was to us a mystery which no casuistry of our's could solve. They could not plead ignorance of the evils entailed by the system they refused, at all hazards, to denounce—nor, surely, could they deliberately prefer to sell bibles to the public at a much higher price than the necessity of the case required. They were not restrained from entering their solemn protest against this worst and most impious of all monopolies by any considerations springing out of justice. They could not plead helplessness—inasmuch as they could not but be aware that the Queen's printer's patent would be but a dead letter unless ratified by their connivance. Neither has the question been overlooked—for, independently of the public notice awakened to it, the agents and officers of the society have been compelled to touch upon it—and we regret to say, have uniformly, in doing so, put forth statements the obvious tone and tendency of which were protective, not deprecatory, of the crying abomination. We had begun to think that a cheap circulation of the scriptures was, in their judgment, no part of the object of the society whose affairs they controlled and that they deemed it to be their exclusive duty to effect as extensive a distribution of the Bible as possible, leaving the cost of it to be regulated by causes external to themselves.

We find, however, that we were mistaken. The committee, who would not take a single step which might affect the enormous profits of the monopolist, with a view to reduce the cost of the divine volume, have not scrupled to aim at the same result by lowering the hard-earned wages of their numerous workmen. Unjust gains would appear to be more sacred in their eyes than the honest but scanty income of industry—and economy in expenditure, as usual, begins at the wrong end, with an attack upon helpless poverty, instead of upon plethoric selfishness. We must allow the "journeymen bookbinders" to state their own case—which

they do with a respectful moderation of tone, reflecting the highest credit upon both their temper and their intelligence.

"The committee of the British and Foreign Bible society thought proper, about a month since, to reduce the price of their bibles and testaments bound in sheep and in roan, gilt edges. It is to the last-mentioned description of binding—roan, gilt edges—to which our observations more particularly refer.

"As what applies to one sort of bible or testament in this binding applies to the whole, we only particularise the roan bible, 24mo, roan, gilt edges. The committee reduced the price of this bible to 1s. 6d., and, as before stated, the price of all other bibles and testaments in this binding in the same degree, thereby underselling every other trader in the market. To enable them to accomplish this they did not, as might have been expected, apply any portion of the ample revenue of the society to that purpose, but reduced the price of its binding for the whole amount of that reduction.

"They entered into a calculation of the price of materials, and of the wages of the labour employed thereon, apportioning so much for materials and profit, and so much for wages; and after ascertaining the wages paid to journeymen bookbinders in their trade, considered that these journeymen were paid too much for their labour, and that, therefore, the low price at which they required the work to be done might easily be made to "to pay" the employer by a corresponding reduction in the wages of the men, and also of the women, in their employment.

"A reduction, amounting to nearly one-half the wages formerly paid, was therefore made on the price of our labour by the employers who bind for the British and Foreign Bible society, to whom remonstrance was useless, it being soon found that the price they received for binding this work would admit of no higher wages.

"Scarcely believing this of the committee of a society which owed its existence to the benevolence of the pious, and whose professed object is the dissemination of the holy volume which, above all others, is heaviest in its denunciations against those who grind the faces of the poor—who deprive the labourer of his hire—we determined to make them acquainted with the circumstances in a memorial, in the hope that this committee were not aware of the grievous ruin they were inflicting, and in the hope that what we had heard of the deliberate intention to effect a reduction in the price of the sacred volume out of the wages of labour was untrue."

The memorial above referred to was transmitted to the committee. We shall extract from it nothing more than the concluding paragraph. It runs thus—

"Your memorialists believe your committee to have been actuated by the best motives in their late reductions, and to have been entirely ignorant of the circumstances which your memorialists have endeavoured to lay before them; they therefore confidently hope that your committee will investigate the truth of what they have thus humbly stated, and relieve them from a loss so ruinous; which they are emboldened to hope by a knowledge of the truly Christian spirit which pervades your society, and from a firm conviction that those who purchase God's most holy word would not object to an additional penny or halfpenny upon the price of a bible or testament, which then would be cheaper than any hitherto known, to save your memorialists from utter ruin."

The reply returned to this respectful statement of their case was curt and decisive.

"British and Foreign Bible Society,
London, 10, Earl street, Blackfriars,
January 3, 1843.

"SIR—The memorial of the members of the Friendly society of the journeymen bookbinders was yesterday laid before our committee. They did not feel that the subject therein referred to is one that they can take up.

"I am, yours, &c.,
G. BROWNE, Sec."

"To Mr Dunning.
In a note to the circular address to the religious public, it is stated—"In the above, it will be seen, we have only referred to two kinds of the society's work; while it was being put in type, as if in mockery of the injury inflicted, and in contempt of of those by whom it is sustained, a reduction has taken place, at our cost, upon the WHOLE of the society's work."

Such, then, are the facts, as set forth in this address. That they are correctly given we have the presumptive evidence afforded by the transmission of the memorial which contained a statement of them, to the chairman of the committee, and by the silence maintained, on this head, by the Secretary in his official reply. We shall assume then, as we think ourselves warranted in doing, their entire authenticity—and, on this basis, proceed to offer a remark or two.

Those gentlemen to whom the public is indebted for their indefatigable labours in opposition to the existing bible monopoly, and in favour of cheap bibles, have uniformly guarded with extreme care against the injustice of effecting a reduction in price by means of a forced reduction in the wages of labour. The committee of the British and Foreign Bible society are, to all intents and purposes, a trading company, having a monopoly, or nearly so, of the sale of the scriptures in this kingdom. They are armed with all the despotic powers of a monopoly, and they, in turn, pour the immense stream of their printing business into the hands of an authorised monopolist. English Bibles, like English wheat, seem fated to be taxed at every stage. Whether such an arrangement conduces to the wider circulation of the sacred volume we shall not stay to determine. But we cannot forbear to remark, that the more irresistible the power of the committee, the more tremblingly anxious ought they to be to wield it against nothing but palpable injustice. If a reduction in price was demanded in consequence of the success of the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation, that reduction ought to have

affected, in the last place rather than in the first, the scanty wages of industrious workmen. The whole of the society's extensive machinery of associations and branches should have been brought to bear upon the existing patent. Every effort should have been made, consistently with truth and piety, to throw open the printing of the scriptures to fair competition. One word from the committee would have called out the most determined energies of the religious world, and Mr Spottiswoode might have been compelled to resign, at the demand of a people's just indignation, what no man ought ever to have been suffered to enjoy. If a step like this would not have compassed the economical wishes of the committee, then, it appears to us, that it might have been gracefully followed up by a voluntary reduction in the salaries of officers and agents. At all events, the hard-working operatives do not appear to our judgment to be the proper parties out of whom the reduction is, in the first instance, to be squeezed—and as "the labourer is worthy of his hire," we trust the public will not sanction oppression practised in the name of religious benevolence. We may probably have occasion to return to the subject.

COVENTRY.—Last Monday, 23d instant, Mr Henry Edger, of this city, was distrained upon for the sum of 12s., a half-year's vicar's rate—a rate granted in lieu of tithes by an act of 19 Geo. 3, and from which the vicar is said to realise an income of above 1,200l. a year. Mr Edger is one of a few dissenters in Coventry who understand and carry out their principles, and "submit joyfully to the spoiling of their goods" rather than lift a finger in support of the mystery of iniquity—the state-church.

MERTHYR TYDVIL.—The adjourned meeting for the purpose of receiving the votes of the rate-payers on the proposal of a rate of 1d. in the pound was held on Wednesday last in the parish vestry. Mr Lewis Lewis took the chair, and the Rev. S. Williams was the first to present himself. He demanded of the chairman to record his vote openly in favour of the rate, instead of voting by ballot, as the majority had decided. This the chairman refused to do, as he was bound by the majority. The tory agents at the works, and others, presented themselves in like manner, and received the same reply. Finding their ruse did not answer, they appointed a lawyer's clerk to enter their names in support of the rate, and thus two modes of voting were adopted; the pro-rate party openly recording their votes—the opposers of the rate voting by ballot. This mode of procedure continued till about two o'clock, when it was decided that as both parties had proceeded sufficiently far to test the matter in a court of justice, the proceedings should close. This was proposed by D. W. James, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. Evan Jenkins, of Dowlais, and carried unanimously. The poll was then closed, and the meeting dissolved. The question, then, whether or no the church party shall have a rate in this large borough, is to be decided in a court of law, whither both parties are determined to take it, in order to test the legality of receiving votes by ballot.

THE PEW QUESTION.—A meeting of the parishioners of St Margaret's, Ipswich, was held last Thursday, by adjournment from the Vestry room to the Admiral's Head inn, to take into consideration the expediency of removing the pews of the church, substituting open benches, and of considering the best means of carrying out the alteration. The Rev. Mr Murray, the incumbent of the parish took the chair. W. C. Fonnereau, Esq., then delivered an address, proving the advantage and necessity of abolishing pews. He himself had supposed that the church of the parish would contain in its pews 800 persons, and many others thought so also. He, however, had the accommodation measured by two competent persons. They had gone into every pew, and they found that under the present system of pews in the church, the edifice was capable of seating 436 persons only [hear]—436 persons in a population, mind, of 4,400. By adopting the convenience of benching, a saving of 42 per cent would be gained—or 178 sittings beyond the present. The Rev. M. Edgar objected to Mr Fonnereau's plan, on the ground that it would introduce confusion. The Rev. T. Mason moved, as an amendment, that a committee be formed to take into consideration the extent of the want of church accommodation in the parish, and to consider the most eligible means of remedying the evil. The Rev. M. Edgar seconded the proposition. The amendment, after considerable discussion, was carried.

DORNEY CHURCH, NEAR ETON.—A correspondence, extending over the whole week, has been going on in the *Times*, respecting the village church of Dorney, in Buckinghamshire, the patron of which is John Palmer, Esq., high sheriff of the county, who resides on that property. The first correspondent, "Iconoclast," made this strange assertion, calling for inquiry, and offering evidence:—"I have been credibly informed that the parish church of Dorney, near Eton, has been profaned in a manner perhaps almost unequalled. It has been stated to me that the Lord's prayer and the creed have been removed from either side of the altar; and that, in their places, have been erected marble statues of Bacchus and Ceres, brought from Italy." Another correspondent of the *Times*, "A Plebeian," cites another report affecting Dorney church:—"I have heard, and I believe it to be true, that some person, not long since, erected in the church a pew of most unusual construction, resembling nothing so much as a conservatory; not only glazed on the side, but with a glass roof, and

fitted up with a stove! The humble-minded man who, if the report be true, thus separated himself from the chance of contact with his vulgar fellow parishioners, and the unusually accommodating incumbent, may probably be easily discovered by the archdeacon, whose duty it is to take care of the sacred building." A third, who signs himself "A Protestant," hints further changes—"I beg to trouble the archdeacon to extend his inquiries beyond Bacchus and Ceres, and to ascertain the metal of which the vessels used in the administration of the eucharist are composed. If I am not misinformed, they are of pewter, or some such metal, and have been substituted for others of silver. What became of the silver vessels? Were they sold? if so, why, and what was done with the money? Is the parish too poor to afford silver?" In Thursday's *Times* appears a letter from Mr Palmer, containing several mis-spelt words, and some few sentences so badly constructed that it is difficult to arrive at the intended meaning. The letter is altogether a fine specimen of the letter writing and composition of a "fine old English gentleman, one of the olden time." Of the statues, Mr Palmer says, "they are not marble divinities brought from Italy, but female figures, clothed in flowing drapery, executed in composition by an Italian artist in London, and holding in their hands a cup and ears of corn, emblematical of the bread and wine used in one of the holiest mysteries of our faith." Mr Palmer adds, however, that, "from interested misrepresentations made to our rural dean, that gentleman was induced to express a doubt whether statuary harmonised with the simplicity of a village church; believing, therefore, that all disputes are detrimental to the religious well-being of the community, the figures were immediately removed." As to the pew of the patron, "my family pew, like that of many other country churches, has an oak canopy, but not covered with glass; neither is it glazed round to exclude the people, but open to the clergyman and the congregation in the midst of whom we sit." The *Times* adds, "we have printed this extraordinary epistle as it has been sent us, without correction or alteration. Our correspondent's power of composition appears to be on a par with his taste in church embellishment." It will be observed that Mr Palmer does not say that his pew is not glazed at all, and that he is quite silent as to the substitution of baser metal for the communion service. Two more letters appeared on this subject in the *Times*, but neither of them contain anything new or worth quoting. Mr Palmer is challenged by Iconoclast to contradict more particularly the statements in his former letters.

PROGRESS OF PUSEYISM.—A correspondent of the *Maidstone Gazette* states that at Kildown church, near Goudhurst, in Kent, the following symptoms of popery are observable:—"The services are read in three different places, part of them with the minister's back to the people; the centre table contains a representation of the Virgin Mary with an infant on her knee, perfectly naked; another painted window displays a figure of King Charles the first, with the inscription, 'Sanctus Carolus Rex and Martyr,' with a glory round his head; another as 'Pope Gregory,' dressed in his papal robe, when in the act of bestowing his benediction on the congregation; a sentence from the Apocrypha is also to be seen displayed, and an emblazonment of the Pope's banner, a lamb with the cross and a pennon surrounded with rays, and a curious painting in party-coloured letters, of words from scripture bringing out the popish heresy, but concealing the scriptural doctrine, is over the communion table."

THE VICAR OF EMPINGHAM AGAIN.—Things are no better yet in this parish, which is acquiring as undeniable a notoriety as the far-famed Gledy. Monday last was the birth-day of G. J. Heathcote, Esq., M.P., which has been always hitherto observed here with the ringing of bells and other rejoicings; but the Rev. Lovick Cooper, faithful to his text (however apocryphal may be the book in which he reads of men and manners), would not permit a bell in the steeple to be moved, and still held his personal dignity in the first place, and his sacerdotal office (if not his Christian ministrations) in the next place, to be involved in a stern refusal of all solicitations to allow the day to be celebrated as it usually had been. This inevitably produced a renewed outbreak of popular indignation; and the whole day was one of bitter feelings and intemperate expressions in the parish. Numerous parties of men with hand-bells assembled, and thus kept up an unceasing din near the parsonage. The church, however, remained inviolate; and the Rev. Lovick Cooper has undoubtedly achieved the victory of having that sacred edifice all to himself, for very few persons in the large parish have lately attended the services performed within it. How long this state of things is to continue, remains with the well-disposed a matter of great wonder and anxiety. The Secretary of State, though certainly appealed to by Mr Cooper, does not seem at present to have interposed.

PROPOSED UNION OF THE SEES OF ST ASAPH AND BANGOR.—On Thursday last, in pursuance of an appointment by the Archdeacon of Ely, in compliance with a requisition, an assembly of the clergy took place at the vestry in St Michael's church, Cambridge, and from thence adjourned to the Combination room of Caius college, where a petition against the proposed union of the above sees was unanimously adopted, and received the signatures of all present, to the number of between forty and fifty. A petition in favour of church extension was also submitted to the meeting, which designated the church as "The protestant reformed episcopal church." An amendment was moved by the Rev. J. Warren of Grancely, and seconded by the Rev. — Collison, Fellow of St Peter's college, that the words "protestant

reformed" be omitted. After one or two observations (discussion on the subject being deprecated by the majority of those present), the amendment was put and lost, six hands only being held up in its favour. The second petition was adopted, and the meeting separated.

PROPOSED REVIVAL OF CONVOCATION.—A meeting of the clergy of the archdeaconry of the East riding of Yorkshire, called by the venerable the archdeacon, in compliance with a requisition respectfully signed, was held at the public rooms, Beverley, on Wednesday last, when the following petitions were unanimously agreed to:—1. To the Queen, requesting that her Majesty would give her license for the meeting of convocation. 2. To the Houses of Lords and Commons, requesting that they would not make any alteration in the ecclesiastical courts, as at present constituted, till the bishops and clergy in convocation shall have an opportunity of considering them. 3. To the Houses of Lords and Commons, against the suppression of one of the Welsh bishoprics.—*Hull Packet*.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE COURT OF SESSION, EDINBURGH.—The Stewarton case came on for judgment on Thursday. The question involved refers to the right of *quoad sacra* ministers to sit in the church courts, and the decision was given against their right by a majority of three of the judges; five voting in favour of, and eight against, the claims of the church. This decision sets at rest, so far as any decision of the civil courts can set at rest, the vexed question regarding the power of the church to subdivide parishes, and increase the number of office-bearers qualified to act as members of the ecclesiastical courts. It plainly vitiates, in point of law, all that has been done in the General Assembly, and in all the inferior church judicatories, since the time that the *quoad sacra* ministers were introduced into their composition.

We are enabled to state that Mr Fox Maule has a bill in reference to the kirk question, ready to bring in on the opening of the session. Its precise character has not yet transpired, but if it is in accordance with the opinions Mr Maule has hitherto professed in the matter, there need be no doubt as to its fate.—*Fife Herald*.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—Ignorant as I am, entirely, of the name or person of the correspondent of the *Nonconformist* residing in this town, I cannot forbear to apprise you of the incorrectness of the communication transmitted to you. In a recent number of your paper it is stated that the "Rev. Mr Stallybrass has been appointed co-pastor with the Rev. Mr Adkins." In this communication there are two palpable inaccuracies. In the first place, Mr Stallybrass is not yet chosen to the office which is contemplated for him, the term of his probationary visit not having yet expired. In the next place, the office contemplated is not a co-pastorate, but simply that of an assistant.

By correcting these mistakes in an early number of your paper you will oblige, dear sir,

Yours very truly,
THOMAS ADKINS.

WILL THE DISSENTERS DO ANYTHING THIS YEAR?

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Will you allow me a corner of your valuable journal to express a hope that this year will see more decided and more frequent efforts on the part of dissenters to convince the people of this country "that Christ's kingdom is not of this world?"

We cannot look at England without seeing the tendency of church establishments to diffuse popery and, by a necessary reaction, infidelity among the people; or at Scotland without seeing their opposition to the rights of Christ; or at Ireland without seeing their gross injustice and perfect weakness for all good purposes; or at India and Malta without seeing their inconsistency and worldly policy; and if these things be so, is the present a time when men "should be at ease in Zion?"

As a word to the wise is sufficient I will not occupy more of your space, and am, sir,

Your obedient servant,
GIMEL.

CHRISTIANITY AND DEMOCRACY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

In perusing the sacred pages, perhaps every follower of Him who came to seek and to save has, either at one time or another, dwelt with delight on that portion which treats of the glory of the "latter days"—of those days when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of God and of his Christ. Where is the Christian's heart which has not thrilled with delight at the prospect of witnessing the vast amount of suffering humanity—suffering beneath the wretchedness of sin and selfishness, pride, ambition, and avarice—becoming one vast multitude glowing with the love of God, and filled with the praise of him and their Redeemer.

Although the sacred writings doubtless have ever been, as they continue to be, "illuminated" to the enlightened soul; yet I believe that all "within and without the veil" agree in looking for the literal fulfilment of that precious promise, "when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." The rise and progress of the numerous religious societies in Great Britain cannot but have awakened hopes in many breasts that this time is somewhat nigh at hand—that this country is to be the first in this glorious state, and an instrument in the hands of divine love for conveying it to others. In encouraging hopes such as these, it might, however, be well to remember that it has generally pleased the Governor of the universe to work by means of instruments, and to use the best-beloved of his creatures for carrying into effect the purposes of his own righteous will. If, in the inscrutable decrees of his providence, he should, at this time, be intending to fulfil these precious promises, is

there not some reason to doubt whether the professing followers of the Saviour would be prepared, in truth and verity, to give themselves unreservedly to carry this will into effect? Is there not some reason to doubt whether they would be willing to acknowledge the great Christian doctrine of the brotherhood of man; forget the worldly language of higher and lower classes; and look on all possessing immortal souls as children of one common Father, servants of one common Lord. Suspicions such as these may be founded in error, may have their existence in partial knowledge; but the failure of the late attempt to secure to our fellow countrymen their civil rights has given such suspicious rise. We cannot but acknowledge that there are now multitudes of our fellow countrymen—manifestly, confessedly suffering from the operation of unjust, partial, and oppressive laws; that these sufferings are beyond the power of individual charity fully to remove, but which the mere word of the Christian portion of the kingdom would sweep away as chaff before the wind. The leader of that attempt, a noble-minded, consistent follower of Jesus Christ, saw this, and with much exertion, trouble, and expense, appealed to his fellow countrymen for help in this righteous cause. How has this appeal been responded to by the religious portion of the community? With some few honourable exceptions, has it not been by apathy—might I not say by opposition? Is there not some reason to fear that, wrapped up in their own abundance, the professed followers of Him "who had not where to lay his head" felt not, or at least did not appear to feel, nor care to remove, the accumulated miseries of their suffering brethren? It is not a sufficient plea to say, "We have nothing to do with politics." Every member of the social community, enjoying its advantages, is bound, in common honesty and justice, to use his best endeavours to promote the general good. Is it not manifest to the simplest capacity that when the Christian kingdoms of the world commence, they will be founded in justice, possess equal rights and equal laws, and every member of the community feel and show an interest in the general good?

I believe that it is in the power of individual Christians to hasten this happy, glorious period. May each see what he himself can do, and, having seen, do it with all his might.

T. P.

THE WAY TO BE USEFUL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—In your paper of this week there is a letter on the circulation of tracts, for the spread of the principles of complete suffrage. You can make use of the following as you think best; it may possibly encourage many friends of the movement, who think they can do little personally, although their desire is to see every man in possession of his rights.

The point is that every member of the Union should do something in the way of peaceful agitation; for example, should an opinion be required, or an objection, as is frequently the case, want answering, a store of answers will be supplied from the *Nonconformist*, or a few copies of the "Reconciliation" pamphlet may be kept to lend for that purpose. These will cause thought and discussion, and will end generally in decision on the right side. Much good can be done in this way, and with little trouble. I know a person who has, simply by discussion, lending the *Nonconformist*, and "Reconciliation" pamphlet, been instrumental in bringing above forty persons within six months to join the movement, twenty of whom are electors; the whole forming a miniature reconciliation of middle and working classes without having a formal meeting.

Hoping this may forward the national remedy,
I remain, yours,
A COMPLETE SUFFRAGIST.
Leeds, Jan. 20, 1843.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The usual weekly meeting of the council was held at the office of the Union on Monday last.

A full discussion took place on the subject of the formation of a central tract depot, and it was determined to decide thereon, at the next meeting; and that in the mean time our correspondents be requested to forward their suggestions.

The Secretary was instructed to correspond with the superintendents of districts, on the subject of obtaining signatures to the "Electors league."

Letters were read from J. Pierce, Isle of Wight; Ebenezer Clarke, Snaresbrook; Charles Clarke, Bath; S. Sidwell, Bath; Edward Hawkes, Kendal; R. W. Hawkes, Falmouth; J. J. Taylor, Woodbridge; Edward Stow, Maldon; J. Workman, Belfast. We give the following extracts:—

"Exeter, January 16th, 1843.

"There is a wide field for exertion, and great prospect of success; we are more behind in Exeter than in any other place or town I am acquainted with in the district, and this in consequence of the great influence possessed by the principals, underlings, and dependents belonging to our great cathedral. So great is their influence, that many tradesmen with whom I am acquainted, and who recognise our principles, dare not to avow them. Still we must not despair. Complete suffrage is in its infancy—it has already accomplished much, and will ultimately triumph. Should the council think it wise to direct their immediate attention to this district, without desiring to dictate, I would suggest that such a lecturer as Mr H. Vincent would effect much good in the advancement of our great and just cause; leaving it to the council to pursue the course they deem wisest and best, as possessing better information than myself.

"I remain, sir, yours faithfully, &c.
ROBERT C. WEBBER.

"P.S.—Complete suffrage in this part has not sustained any injury or check by the results of the late conference, but rather a benefit, by removing a wrong impression which was pretty general, namely, that complete suffrage was a new name assumed by the chartists. "The course taken by Mr Sturge and his friends is highly approved of."

From Jabez Vines, Reading:—

"Mr Vincent has engaged to address us in Reading on Wednesday and Thursday next, after which an effort will be made to form a complete suffrage association."

laird or be he not, a right to assign to it, according to his own caprice, a spiritual pastor. Viewing the matter in this light, one is disposed to sympathise most heartily with men who resent with becoming spirit this obtrusion of the world upon the church. But this is not, unfortunately for the honour of the kirk of Scotland, the precise aspect of her present position. From time immemorial, she was accustomed to take the provision granted her by the state, clogged with this unseemly condition. It is only of late that she became fairly awake to the sin of consenting to such a humiliation, and her struggle ever since has been to annul the condition, and to keep the teinds. To this her ally is not disposed to submit, and Sir James Graham's reply, a digest of which we gave in our columns last week, may be translated into one brief sentence—"If the church of Scotland will have a legal provision, she must have with it also lay patronage." Of course she must. What other object can civil governments have in view in the maintenance of burdensome ecclesiastical establishments, but the disposal through various aristocratic channels of that immense amount of patronage which they necessarily create? How else could they control the complex machinery, and make it subserve the purposes for which it is upheld?

What then, in this dilemma, will the kirk of Scotland do? Wink at the sin she has denounced, or resign the funds she has enjoyed? One of these she must determine upon. To do the first will destroy what remains to her of moral influence. Her condemnation of the system of patronage has been so loud and so emphatic, that her acquiescence in it now would be fatal to her claims upon the confidence of her own members. Her resignation of state support would best become her dignity, but is far from being what she meant, when she commenced her conflict with civil authority. But, whether she does the first or the last, she will deal out a heavier blow against the principle of religious establishments, than, in the present posture of affairs, they will be able to sustain. Both she and her proud sister of England will soon learn the truth of the proverb, "The beginning of strife is the letting out of many waters."

THE BIBLE SOCIETY AND ITS BOOKBINDERS.

WE have received a circular headed "British and Foreign Bible Society. Address of the Journeymen Bookbinders of London and Westminster to the Religious Public." To our minds it is an affecting document—deeply affecting, in every sense. Most heartily are we grieved to see so noble an institution, as the Bible society, not merely brought under disrepute, but placed in jeopardy, by the ill-concealed inconsistency of its committee of management. Upon their conduct in relation to the Bible-printing monopoly, we have reluctantly but unshrinkingly commented more than once. How men, charged by a large constituent body, and laid under yet more serious obligation by providential position, to circulate, at the cheapest possible rate, the sacred volume, could reconcile it with Christian principle, to wink at an arbitrary arrangement, by which, for the unhallowed gain of an individual monopolist, the price of the scriptures was seriously enhanced—was to us a mystery which no casuistry of ours could solve. They could not plead ignorance of the evils entailed by the system they refused, at all hazards, to denounce—nor, surely, could they deliberately prefer to sell bibles to the public at a much higher price than the necessity of the case required. They were not restrained from entering their solemn protest against this worst and most impious of all monopolies by any considerations springing out of justice. They could not plead helplessness—inasmuch as they could not but be aware that the Queen's printer's patent would be but a dead letter unless ratified by their connivance. Neither has the question been overlooked—for, independently of the public notice awakened to it, the agents and officers of the society have been compelled to touch upon it—and we regret to say, have uniformly, in doing so, put forth statements the obvious tone and tendency of which were protective, not deprecatory, of the crying abomination. We had begun to think that a cheap circulation of the scriptures was, in their judgment, no part of the object of the society whose affairs they controlled and that they deemed it to be their exclusive duty to effect as extensive a distribution of the Bible as possible, leaving the cost of it to be regulated by causes external to themselves.

We find, however, that we were mistaken. The committee, who would not take a single step which might affect the enormous profits of the monopolist, with a view to reduce the cost of the divine volume, have not scrupled to aim at the same result by lowering the hard-earned wages of their numerous workmen. Unjust gains would appear to be more sacred in their eyes than the honest but scanty income of industry—and economy in expenditure, as usual, begins at the wrong end, with an attack upon helpless poverty, instead of upon plethoric selfishness. We must allow the "journeymen bookbinders" to state their own case—which

they do with a respectful moderation of tone, reflecting the highest credit upon both their temper and their intelligence.

"The committee of the British and Foreign Bible society thought proper, about a month since, to reduce the prices of their bibles and testaments bound in sheep and in roan, gilt edges. It is to the last-mentioned description of binding—roan, gilt edges—to which our observations more particularly refer.

"As what applies to one sort of bible or testament in this binding applies to the whole, we only particularise the ruby bible, 24mo, roan, gilt edges. The committee reduced the price of this bible to 1s. 6d., and, as before stated, the price of all other bibles and testaments in this binding in the same degree, thereby underselling every other trader in the market. To enable them to accomplish this they did not, as might have been expected, apply any portion of the ample revenue of the society to that purpose, but reduced the price of its binding for the whole amount of that reduction.

"They entered into a calculation of the price of materials, and of the wages of the labour employed thereon, apportioning so much for materials and profit, and so much for wages; and after ascertaining the wages paid to journeymen bookbinders in their trade, considered that these journeymen were paid too much for their labour, and that, therefore, the low price at which they required the work to be done might easily be made to 'pay' the employer by a corresponding reduction in the wages of the men, and also of the women, in their employment.

"A reduction, amounting to nearly one-half the wages formerly paid, was therefore made on the price of our labour by the employers who bind for the British and Foreign Bible society, to whom remonstrance was useless, it being soon found that the price they received for binding this work would admit of no higher wages.

"Scarcely believing this of the committee of a society which owed its existence to the benevolence of the pious, and whose professed object is the dissemination of the holy volume which, above all others, is heaviest in its denunciations against those who grind the faces of the poor—who deprive the labourer of his hire—we determined to make them acquainted with the circumstances in a memorial, in the hope that this committee were not aware of the grievous ruin they were inflicting, and in the hope that what we had heard of the deliberate intention to effect a reduction in the price of the sacred volume out of the wages of labour was untrue."

The memorial above referred to was transmitted to the committee. We shall extract from it nothing more than the concluding paragraph. It runs thus—

"Your memorialists believe your committee to have been actuated by the best motives in their late reductions, and to have been entirely ignorant of the circumstances which your memorialists have endeavoured to lay before them; they therefore confidently hope that your committee will investigate the truth of what they have thus humbly stated, and relieve them from a loss so ruinous; which they are emboldened to hope by a knowledge of the truly Christian spirit which pervades your society, and from a firm conviction that those who purchase God's most holy word would not object to an additional penny or halfpenny upon the price of a bible or testament, which then would be cheaper than any hitherto known, to save your memorialists from utter ruin."

The reply returned to this respectful statement of their case was curt and decisive.

"British and Foreign Bible Society,
London, 10, Earl street, Blackfriars,
January 3, 1843.

"SIR—The memorial of the members of the Friendly society of the journeymen bookbinders was yesterday laid before our committee. They did not feel that the subject therein referred to is one that they can take up.

"I am, yours, &c.,
G. BROWNE, Sec."

"To Mr Dunning.

In a note to the circular address to the religious public, it is stated—"In the above, it will be seen, we have only referred to two kinds of the society's work; while it was being put in type, as if in mockery of the injury inflicted, and in contempt of of those by whom it is sustained, a reduction has taken place, at our cost, upon the whole of the society's work."

Such, then, are the facts, as set forth in this address. That they are correctly given we have the presumptive evidence afforded by the transmission of the memorial which contained a statement of them, to the chairman of the committee, and by the silence maintained, on this head, by the Secretary in his official reply. We shall assume then, as we think ourselves warranted in doing, their entire authenticity—and, on this basis, proceed to offer a remark or two.

Those gentlemen to whom the public is indebted for their indefatigable labours in opposition to the existing bible monopoly, and in favour of cheap bibles, have uniformly guarded with extreme care against the injustice of effecting a reduction in price by means of a forced reduction in the wages of labour. The committee of the British and Foreign Bible society are, to all intents and purposes, a trading company, having a monopoly, or nearly so, of the sale of the scriptures in this kingdom. They are armed with all the despotic powers of a monopoly, and they, in turn, pour the immense stream of their printing business into the hands of an authorised monopolist. English Bibles, like English wheat, seem fated to be taxed at every stage. Whether such an arrangement conduces to the wider circulation of the sacred volume we shall not stay to determine. But we cannot forbear to remark, that the more irresistible the power of the committee, the more tremblingly anxious ought they to be to wield it against nothing but palpable injustice. If a reduction in price was demanded in consequence of the success of the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation, that reduction ought to have

affected, in the last place rather than in the first, the scanty wages of industrious workmen. The whole of the society's extensive machinery of associations and branches should have been brought to bear upon the existing patent. Every effort should have been made, consistently with truth and piety, to throw open the printing of the scriptures to fair competition. One word from the committee would have called out the most determined energies of the religious world, and Mr Spottiswoode might have been compelled to resign, at the demand of a people's just indignation, what no man ought ever to have been suffered to enjoy. If a step like this would not have compassed the economical wishes of the committee, then, it appears to us, that it might have been gracefully followed up by a voluntary reduction in the salaries of officers and agents. At all events, the hard-working operatives do not appear to our judgment to be the proper parties out of whom the reduction is, in the first instance, to be squeezed—and as "the labourer is worthy of his hire," we trust the public will not sanction oppression practised in the name of religious benevolence. We may probably have occasion to return to the subject.

COVENTRY.—Last Monday, 23d instant, Mr Henry Edger, of this city, was distrained upon for the sum of 12s., a half-year's vicar's rate—a rate granted in lieu of tithes by an act of 19 Geo. 3, and from which the vicar is said to realise an income of above 1,200l. a year. Mr Edger is one of a few dissenters in Coventry who understand and carry out their principles, and "submit joyfully to the spoiling of their goods" rather than lift a finger in support of the mystery of iniquity—the state-church.

MERTHYR TYDVIL.—The adjourned meeting for the purpose of receiving the votes of the rate-payers on the proposal of a rate of 1d. in the pound was held on Wednesday last in the parish vestry. Mr Lewis Lewis took the chair, and the Rev. S. Williams was the first to present himself. He demanded of the chairman to record his vote openly in favour of the rate, instead of voting by ballot, as the majority had decided. This the chairman refused to do, as he was bound by the majority. The tory agents at the works, and others, presented themselves in like manner, and received the same reply. Finding their ruse did not answer, they appointed a lawyer's clerk to enter their names in support of the rate, and thus two modes of voting were adopted; the pro-rate party openly recording their votes—the opposers of the rate voting by ballot. This mode of procedure continued till about two o'clock, when it was decided that as both parties had proceeded sufficiently far to test the matter in a court of justice, the proceedings should close. This was proposed by D. W. James, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. Evan Jenkins, of Dowlais, and carried unanimously. The poll was then closed, and the meeting dissolved. The question, then, whether or no the church party shall have a rate in this large borough, is to be decided in a court of law, whither both parties are determined to take it, in order to test the legality of receiving votes by ballot.

THE PEW QUESTION.—A meeting of the parishioners of St Margaret's, Ipswich, was held last Thursday, by adjournment from the Vestry room to the Admiral's Head inn, to take into consideration the expediency of removing the pews of the church, substituting open benches, and of considering the best means of carrying out the alteration. The Rev. Mr Murray, the incumbent of the parish took the chair. W. C. Fonnereau, Esq., then delivered an address, proving the advantage and necessity of abolishing pews. He himself had supposed that the church of the parish would contain in its pews 800 persons, and many others thought so also. He, however, had the accommodation measured by two competent persons. They had gone into every pew, and they found that under the present system of pews in the church, the edifice was capable of seating 436 persons only [hear]—436 persons in a population, mind, of 4,400. By adopting the convenience of benching, a saving of 42 per cent would be gained—or 178 sittings beyond the present. The Rev. M. Edgar objected to Mr Fonnereau's plan, on the ground that it would introduce confusion. The Rev. T. Mason moved, as an amendment, that a committee be formed to take into consideration the extent of the want of church accommodation in the parish, and to consider the most eligible means of remedying the evil. The Rev. M. Edgar seconded the proposition. The amendment, after considerable discussion, was carried.

DORNEY CHURCH, NEAR ETON.—A correspondence, extending over the whole week, has been going on in the *Times*, respecting the village church of Dorney, in Buckinghamshire, the patron of which is John Palmer, Esq., high sheriff of the county, who resides on that property. The first correspondent, "Iconoclast," made this strange assertion, calling for inquiry, and offering evidence:—"I have been credibly informed that the parish church of Dorney, near Eton, has been profaned in a manner perhaps almost unequalled. It has been stated to me that the Lord's prayer and the creed have been removed from either side of the altar; and that, in their places, have been erected marble statues of Bacchus and Ceres, brought from Italy." Another correspondent of the *Times*, "A Placidian," cites another report affecting Dorney church:—"I have heard, and I believe it to be true, that some person, not long since, erected in the church a pew of most unusual construction, resembling nothing so much as a conservatory; not only glazed on the side, but with a glass roof, and

fitted up with a stove! The humble-minded man who, if the report be true, thus separated himself from the chance of contact with his vulgar fellow parishioners, and the unusually accommodating incumbent, may probably be easily discovered by the archdeacon, whose duty it is to take care of the sacred building." A third, who signs himself "A Protestant," hints further changes—"I beg to trouble the archdeacon to extend his inquiries beyond Bacchus and Ceres, and to ascertain the metal of which the vessels used in the administration of the eucharist are composed. If I am not misinformed, they are of pewter, or some such metal, and have been substituted for others of silver. What became of the silver vessels? Were they sold? if so, why, and what was done with the money? Is the parish too poor to afford silver?" In Thursday's *Times* appears a letter from Mr Palmer, containing several mis-spelt words, and some few sentences so badly constructed that it is difficult to arrive at the intended meaning. The letter is altogether a fine specimen of the letter writing and composition of a "fine old English gentleman, one of the olden time." Of the statues, Mr Palmer says, "they are not marble divinities brought from Italy, but female figures, clothed in flowing drapery, executed in composition by an Italian artist in London, and holding in their hands a cup and ears of corn, emblematical of the bread and wine used in one of the holiest mysteries of our faith." Mr Palmer adds, however, that, "from interested misrepresentations made to our rural dean, that gentleman was induced to express a doubt whether statuary harmonised with the simplicity of a village church; believing, therefore, that all disputes are detrimental to the religious well-being of the community, the figures were immediately removed." As to the pew of the patron, "my family pew, like that of many other country churches, has an oak canopy, but not covered with glass; neither is it glazed round to exclude the people, but open to the clergyman and the congregation in the midst of whom we sit." The *Times* adds, "we have printed this extraordinary epistle as it has been sent us, without correction or alteration. Our correspondent's power of composition appears to be on a par with his taste in church embellishment." It will be observed that Mr Palmer does not say that his pew is not glazed at all, and that he is quite silent as to the substitution of baser metal for the communion service. Two more letters appeared on this subject in the *Times*, but neither of them contain anything new or worth quoting. Mr Palmer is challenged by Iconoclast to contradict more particularly the statements in his former letters.

PROGRESS OF PUSEYISM.—A correspondent of the *Maidstone Gazette* states that at Kildown church, near Goudhurst, in Kent, the following symptoms of popery are observable:—"The services are read in three different places, part of them with the minister's back to the people; the centre table contains a representation of the Virgin Mary with an infant on her knee, perfectly naked; another painted window displays a figure of King Charles the first, with the inscription, 'Sanctus Carolus Rex and Martyr,' with a glory round his head; another as 'Pope Gregory,' dressed in his papal robe, when in the act of bestowing his benediction on the congregation; a sentence from the Apocrypha is also to be seen displayed, and an emblazonment of the Pope's banner, a lamb with the cross and a pennon surrounded with rays, and a curious painting in party-coloured letters, of words from scripture bringing out the popish heresy, but concealing the scriptural doctrine, is over the communion table."

THE VICAR OF EMPINGHAM AGAIN.—Things are no better yet in this parish, which is acquiring as undeniable a notoriety as the far-famed Gedney. Monday last was the birth-day of G. J. Heathcote, Esq., M.P., which has been always hitherto observed here with the ringing of bells and other rejoicings; but the Rev. Lovick Cooper, faithful to his text (however apocryphal may be the book in which he reads of men and manners), would not permit a bell in the steeple to be moved, and still held his personal dignity in the first place, and his sacerdotal office (if not his Christian ministrations) in the next place, to be involved in a stern refusal of all solicitations to allow the day to be celebrated as it usually had been. This inevitably produced a renewed outbreak of popular indignation; and the whole day was one of bitter feelings and intemperate expressions in the parish. Numerous parties of men with hand-bells assembled, and thus kept up an unceasing din near the parsonage. The church, however, remained inviolate; and the Rev. Lovick Cooper has undoubtedly achieved the victory of having that sacred edifice all to himself, for very few persons in the large parish have lately attended the services performed within it. How long this state of things is to continue, remains with the well-disposed a matter of great wonder and anxiety. The Secretary of State, though certainly appealed to by Mr Cooper, does not seem at present to have interposed.

PROPOSED UNION OF THE SEES OF ST ASAPH AND BANGOR.—On Thursday last, in pursuance of an appointment by the Archdeacon of Ely, in compliance with a requisition, an assembly of the clergy took place in the vestry in St Michael's church, Cambridge, and from thence adjourned to the Combination room of Caius college, where a petition against the proposed union of the above sees was unanimously adopted, and received the signatures of all present, to the number of between forty and fifty. A petition in favour of church extension was also submitted to the meeting, which designated the church as "The protestant reformed episcopal church." An amendment was moved by the Rev. J. Warren of Grangeley, and seconded by the Rev. — Collison, Fellow of St Peter's college, that the words "protestant

reformed" be omitted. After one or two observations (discussion on the subject being deprecated by the majority of those present), the amendment was put and lost, six hands only being held up in its favour. The second petition was adopted, and the meeting separated.

PROPOSED REVIVAL OF CONVOCATION.—A meeting of the clergy of the archdeaconry of the East riding of Yorkshire, called by the venerable the archdeacon, in compliance with a requisition respectably signed, was held at the public rooms, Beverley, on Wednesday last, when the following petitions were unanimously agreed to:—1. To the Queen, requesting that her Majesty would give her license for the meeting of convocation. 2. To the Houses of Lords and Commons, requesting that they would not make any alteration in the ecclesiastical courts, as at present constituted, till the bishops and clergy in convocation shall have an opportunity of considering them. 3. To the Houses of Lords and Commons, against the suppression of one of the Welsh bishoprics.—*Hull Packet*.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE COURT OF SESSION, EDINBURGH.—The Stewarton case came on for judgment on Thursday. The question involved refers to the right of *quoad sacra* ministers to sit in the church courts, and the decision was given against their right by a majority of three of the judges; five voting in favour of, and eight against, the claims of the church. This decision sets at rest, so far as any decision of the civil courts can set at rest, the vexed question regarding the power of the church to subdivide parishes, and increase the number of office-bearers qualified to act as members of the ecclesiastical courts. It plainly vitiates, in point of law, all that has been done in the General Assembly, and in all the inferior church judicatories, since the time that the *quoad sacra* ministers were introduced into their composition.

We are enabled to state that Mr Fox Maule has a bill in reference to the kirk question, ready to bring in on the opening of the session. Its precise character has not yet transpired, but if it is in accordance with the opinions Mr Maule has hitherto professed in the matter, there need be no doubt as to its fate.—*Fife Herald*.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR—Ignorant as I am, entirely, of the name or person of the correspondent of the *Nonconformist* residing in this town, I cannot forbear to apprise you of the incorrectness of the communication transmitted to you. In a recent number of your paper it is stated that the "Rev. Mr Stallybrass has been appointed co-pastor with the Rev. Mr Adkins." In this communication there are two palpable inaccuracies. In the first place, Mr Stallybrass is not yet chosen to the office which is contemplated for him, the term of his probationary visit not having yet expired. In the next place, the office contemplated is not a co-pastorate, but simply that of an assistant.

By correcting these mistakes in an early number of your paper you will oblige, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

THOMAS ADKINS.

WILL THE DISSENTERS DO ANYTHING THIS YEAR?

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR—Will you allow me a corner of your valuable journal to express a hope that this year will see more decided and more frequent efforts on the part of dissenters to convince the people of this country "that Christ's kingdom is not of this world?"

We cannot look at England without seeing the tendency of church establishments to diffuse popery and, by a necessary reaction, infidelity among the people; or at Scotland without seeing their opposition to the rights of Christ; or at Ireland without seeing their gross injustice and perfect weakness for all good purposes; or at India and Malta without seeing their inconsistency and worldly policy; and if these things be so, is the present a time when men "should be at ease in Zion?"

As a word to the wise is sufficient I will not occupy more of your space, and am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

GIMEL.

CHRISTIANITY AND DEMOCRACY.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

In perusing the sacred pages, perhaps every follower of Him who came to seek and to save has, either at one time or another, dwelt with delight on that portion which treats of the glory of the "latter days"—of those days when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of God and of His Christ. Where is the Christian's heart which has not thrilled with delight at the prospect of witnessing the vast amount of suffering humanity—suffering beneath the wretchedness of sin and selfishness, pride, ambition, and avarice—becoming one vast multitude glowing with the love of God, and filled with the praise of him and their Redeemer.

Although the sacred writings doubtless have ever been, as they continue to be, "illuminated" to the enlightened soul; yet I believe that all "within and without the veil" agree in looking for the literal fulfilment of that precious promise, "when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." The rise and progress of the numerous religious societies in Great Britain cannot but have awakened hopes in many breasts that this time is somewhat nigh at hand—that this country is to be the first in this glorious state, and an instrument in the hands of divine love for conveying it to others. In encouraging hopes such as these, it might, however, be well to remember that it has generally pleased the Governor of the universe to work by means of instruments, and to use the best-beloved of his creatures for carrying into effect the purposes of his own righteous will. If, in the inscrutable decrees of his providence, he should, at this time, be intending to fulfil these precious promises, is

there not some reason to doubt whether the professing followers of the Saviour would be prepared, in truth and verity, to give themselves unreservedly to carry this will into effect? Is there not some reason to doubt whether they would be willing to acknowledge the great Christian doctrine of the brotherhood of man; forget the worldly language of higher and lower classes; and look on all possessing immortal souls as children of one common Father, servants of one common Lord. Suspicions such as these may be founded in error, may have their existence in partial knowledge; but the failure of the late attempt to secure to our fellow countrymen their civil rights has given such suspicious rise. We cannot but acknowledge that there are now multitudes of our fellow countrymen—manifestly, confessedly suffering from the operation of unjust, partial, and oppressive laws; that these sufferings are beyond the power of individual charity fully to remove, but which the mere word of the Christian portion of the kingdom would sweep away as chaff before the wind. The leader of that attempt, a noble-minded, consistent follower of Jesus Christ, saw this, and with much exertion, trouble, and expense, appealed to his fellow countrymen for help in this righteous cause. How has this appeal been responded to by the religious portion of the community? With some few honourable exceptions, has it not been by apathy—might I not say by opposition? Is there not some reason to fear that, wrapped up in their own abundance, the professed followers of Him "who had not where to lay his head" felt not, or at least did not appear to feel, nor care to remove, the accumulated miseries of their suffering brethren? It is not a sufficient plea to say, "We have nothing to do with politics." Every member of the social community, enjoying its advantages, is bound, in common honesty and justice, to use his best endeavours to promote the general good. Is it not manifest to the simplest capacity that when the Christian kingdoms of the world commence, they will be founded in justice, possess equal rights and equal laws, and every member of the community feel and show an interest in the general good?

I believe that it is in the power of individual Christians to hasten this happy, glorious period. May each see what he himself can do, and, having seen, do it with all his might.

T. P.

THE WAY TO BE USEFUL.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR—In your paper of this week there is a letter on the circulation of tracts, for the spread of the principles of complete suffrage. You can make use of the following as you think best; it may possibly encourage many friends of the movement, who think they can do little personally, although their desire is to see every man in possession of his rights.

The point is that every member of the Union should do something in the way of peaceful agitation; for example, should an opinion be required, or an objection, as is frequently the case, want answering, a store of answers will be supplied from the *Nonconformist*, or a few copies of the "Reconciliation" pamphlet may be kept to lend for that purpose. These will cause thought and discussion, and will end generally in decision on the right side. Much good can be done in this way, and with little trouble. I know a person who has, simply by discussion, lending the *Nonconformist*, and "Reconciliation" pamphlet, been instrumental in bringing above forty persons within six months to join the movement, twenty of whom are electors; the whole forming a miniature reconciliation of middle and working classes without having a formal meeting.

Hoping this may forward the national remedy,

I remain, yours,

A COMPLETE SUFFRAGIST.

Leeds, Jan. 20, 1843.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The usual weekly meeting of the council was held at the office of the Union on Monday last.

A full discussion took place on the subject of the formation of a central tract depot, and it was determined to decide thereon, at the next meeting; and that in the mean time our correspondents be requested to forward their suggestions.

The Secretary was instructed to correspond with the superintendents of districts, on the subject of obtaining signatures to the "Electors league."

Letters were read from J. Pierce, Isle of Wight; Ebenezer Clarke, Snaresbrook; Charles Clarke, Bath; S. Sidwell, Bath; Edward Hawkes, Kendal; R. W. Hawkes, Falmouth; J. J. Taylor, Woodbridge; Edward Stow, Maldon; J. Workman, Belfast. We give the following extracts:—

Exeter, January 16th, 1843.

"There is a wide field for exertion, and great prospect of success; we are more behind in Exeter than in any other place or town I am acquainted with in the district, and this in consequence of the great influence possessed by the principals, underlings, and dependents, belonging to our great cathedral. So great is their influence, that many tradesmen with whom I am acquainted, and who recognise our principles, dare not to avow them. Still we must not despair. Complete suffrage is in its infancy—it has already accomplished much, and will ultimately triumph. Should the council think it wise to direct their immediate attention to this district, without desiring to dictate, I would suggest that such a lecturer as Mr H. Vincent would effect much good in the advancement of our great and just cause; leaving it to the council to pursue the course they deem wisest and best, as possessing better information than myself.

I remain, sir, yours faithfully, &c.,

ROBERT C. WEBBER.

"P.S.—Complete suffrage in this part has not sustained any injury or check by the results of the late conference, but rather a benefit, by removing a wrong impression which was pretty general, namely, that complete suffrage was a new name assumed by the chartists.

"The course taken by Mr Sturget and his friends is highly approved of."

From Jabez Vines, Reading:—

"Mr Vincent has engaged to address us in Reading on Wednesday and Thursday next, after which an effort will be made to form a complete suffrage association."

From Herbert Spencer, Derby :—
 "We have commenced pledging electors, and expect to have fifty or sixty out of our own association."

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE, THE LORDS, AND THE CROWN.
 —The following is the copy of a letter from Mr Sturge to the Editor of the *Ipswich Express*, in reference to the objects which are desired by the Complete Suffrage party:—

"To the Editor of the *Ipswich Express*."

"I have been favoured with a copy of the *Ipswich Express* of this week, in which is an article on the representation of the whole people, referring to the draught of a bill which was adopted by a conference lately held in this town; and which article contains the following paragraph:—'If the object of the bill be to restore to the people their rights in the free election of representatives in the house of Commons—to emancipate that House from aristocratic dominion, and render it truly responsible to the nation—why then the object of the bill is unexceptionable. But if, on the other hand, the object proposed be, instead of this, to establish a pure democracy—to extinguish an hereditary monarchy and optimacy in the state, it is a bad object, and ought to be resisted to the last extremity by every subject of the British crown. We beg respectfully to ask of Mr Sturge a distinct declaration upon this vital point?' To this query I beg to return the following answer:—The council of the Complete Suffrage Union, as far as I know their sentiments, cordially unite with me in confining their labours to the simple object of our association—that of securing a full, fair, and free representation of the people in the house of Commons; and contend that this can be obtained without any infringement of the prerogative of the Crown. In confirmation of this, I have forwarded a pamphlet recently published by my friend William Sharman Crawford, M.P., who has been requested, by a unanimous vote of the members of the conference who acted with the council, to move for leave to bring in the bill they had agreed to. The remarks in this pamphlet are so excellent, that I hope the Editor of the *Ipswich Express* will insert some extracts from it in his columns. I am, very respectfully,

"JOSEPH STURGE."

"Birmingham, 1st Month, 14, 1843."

FINSBURY.—On Friday evening, a meeting of the friends of complete suffrage in this borough, called by circular, was held at the Crown inn, Clerkenwell green, for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming a complete suffrage association; and of hearing an address from Mr Vincent, in exposition of the principles of perfect representation. Stafford Allen, Esq., was called to the chair. The provisional committee which had been appointed on a former occasion gave a brief account of what had been previously done, and submitted a code of laws for the government of the association. These were then laid, one by one, before the meeting, and adopted with one or two minor alterations. They provided that the "Islington Complete Suffrage association" should be the name adopted—that their object should be to create an extended and enlightened public feeling in favour of the "six points"—that a president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and committee constitute the officers—that a meeting of members should be held once a fortnight, and various other judicious details for carrying out these resolutions. The only material point that was objected to was annual parliaments, but the necessity and importance of the measure were so ably advocated by Mr Vincent that the objector offered no further opposition. In consequence of the lateness of the hour it was thought advisable to adjourn the meeting until Friday next, when the election of officers and other necessary business will be proceeded with. Mr Vincent then delivered a brief but effective address on the present aspect of the complete suffrage cause, and the duty and policy of its friends. He strongly urged the necessity of organisation, and of attempting to direct every effort to win over the electoral constituencies to its principles. He stated that he intended to devote the next two weeks to lecturing on complete suffrage, and the formation of associations in the metropolitan boroughs. He pointed out the necessity of using every exertion for turning to account the probable failure of the Anti-corn-law league to procure any relief from the present landlord parliament; and concluded with an eloquent exposition of the principles of truth, of the growing desire for their just rights evinced by the working classes, and of the obligation they were under to show that they were able properly to exercise them by carrying out the true principles of freedom in all the relations of life. Mr Vincent was warmly applauded, and at the close of his address signified his intention of being present at the meeting on Friday, and delivering a lecture on the principles of complete suffrage. At the close of the proceedings most of the persons present gave in their names as members of the association, and as the meeting on Friday will be of a somewhat more public character a larger attendance is expected. This association has commenced with great promise; and as the borough is noted for its radical principles, it is hoped that a majority of electors will shortly be enrolled as members, and that an effective organisation of the borough may thus be effected.

IPSWICH.—The usual monthly meeting of the Ipswich Complete Suffrage Union was held on Tuesday last. Several encouraging letters were read from Mr Sturge and others. Mr Fraser, one of the delegates to the late convention, being present, was called upon to give an account of his mission on behalf of himself and his colleague, Mr H. Vincent. The leading features of the convention were briefly touched upon. There is one position, however, said

Mr F., which seems to have beguiled many: viz., the plausibility of the chartist leaders in expressing their desire for a "complete union." It is now very generally known that one section was quite hostile to the complete suffrage movement, and that no other union could be effected but by adopting the charter, name and all, and joining the Charter association. Mr Lovett, who moved the amendment, distinctly declared in his closing remarks, that when Mr Sturge and his friends withdrew, there would still be two sections; thereby disclaiming any reconciliation with the O'Connorites, who formed the larger portion of the majority. So far from that section representing the three millions and a half who signed the national petition, as they would wish us to suppose, it is very certain they are limited to the admirers of the *Northern Star*. Our own town was referred to as an instance wherein the Charter association comprises twenty members, and they had two representatives who voted in the majority. Mr Fraser reminded them that our own association, yet in an infantine state, labouring under great disadvantages, had already made its inroad upon the electoral body so far as to have among its members nearly 60, and the rest were nearly all working men; and from the demonstration made during the last election it was evident that the masses of the people were with them. From his knowledge of these counties he believed these remarks applied to the entire district; so that this division is not a separation of the middle and working classes, but merely a few of their pretended leaders. The bill of Rights was introduced and commented upon, and its superiority over the charter pointed out, that indeed being only the "outline of an act," and consequently unfit to become the law of the land in that form. A vote was then unanimously carried, expressing the satisfaction of the association at the course pursued by the suffrage party; and by Mr H. Vincent and Mr Fraser in particular, for supporting the original motion of Mr Beggs. Other business was attended to for strengthening the movement in this town.

PRESTON.—Two numerous attended meetings have been held in this town since the conference, to receive a report of its proceedings from Mr Richard Gardner, and the result has been the formation of the "Preston Complete Suffrage association," with every prospect of success. The cause has suffered extremely in the town from the violence and intolerance of extreme chartists; but it is trusted that the example of peaceable and orderly proceedings which has now been set will have the effect of conciliating the support of a large number of liberal electors. Mr Gardner's remarks went principally to show the necessity of a movement of this kind in the present state of the public mind, and the obvious claims it possessed on the gratitude and sympathy of the working men. They were listened to with the greatest attention throughout. A reading-room in connexion with the association has been formed in Friar-gate. Among the resolutions adopted is the following:—"The main intention of this association is to dispose the electoral body to a favourable consideration of the great principles of political equality, and to rescue the cause from those charges of violence and intolerance which many have been too willing to attach to it. At the same time it deprecates any intention to interfere with those who, in a different sphere, peaceably exert themselves for a similar object." W. A. Gardner, Esq., is the president of the association. This association already numbers more than eighty members, half of whom are electors for either the borough or county. Printed circulars to the number of some hundreds have been left at the houses of electors, declaratory of the objects of the association. The alternate Monday evenings have been set apart for public meetings and meetings of members, the public meetings being advertised by placards. For the Wednesday night a discussion class has been formed, including all the members of the association, each being at liberty to introduce a stranger on a small payment, such stranger being at liberty to take part in the discussion. Most favourable results may be expected from this arrangement, as a thriving class connected with the Mechanics' institution was lately broken up owing to the mischievous interference of our high-church vicar. Our large boards, pointing to our association rooms, proclaim the words "complete suffrage" to the passers-by, in our most crowded thoroughfares, and we have really good workers amongst our number. We daily register new members, and our prospects are most cheering.

TEA PARTY AT SALFORD.—The friends and members of the Salford Complete Suffrage association assembled in the Town hall on Tuesday evening, to hear from Mr F. Warren, delegate to the late conference in Birmingham, an account of his stewardship. The meeting was preceded by a tea party, which led to the presence of a considerable number of the fair sex, and the proceedings of the evening were of an interesting and delightful character. Jonathan Rawson, Esq., took the chair, and in opening the business read a letter from Joseph Sturge regretting his inability to be present. Mr F. Warren was received with loud cheers, and proceeded to give an account of his mission to Birmingham. After giving a brief account of the proceedings of the conference accompanied with a running commentary, he gives his reasons for joining the minority on that occasion:—

"I went there to confer with a number of my fellow-countrymen as to the details which were necessary to the carrying out of the principles we had adopted, and to put the whole in a form fitting to be presented to the legislature for its sanction. We had, as near as we were able, drawn up such details and put them in the required form. All we asked was, to be allowed to read the bill so prepared, and then to submit it to the conference for such alteration and improvements as they might think necessary; being quite willing that the improvements should be transferred from any documents any one felt disposed to lay upon the table for consideration. The majority having refused to do

this, I felt I should best serve you who sent me, and best promote the interests of the country, by withdrawing myself from that majority and going with those who were willing to abide by the object which had brought us together [great applause]. Again, I considered that by acting with the majority I should be taking to myself and the movement with which I am connected, the name and creed of a party, the moving power of which has distinguished itself in by no means the most desirable way. This I had no wish to do, for I desired if possible to present the great principles for which we are contending, free from the taint of party bigotry and party strife, to the consideration of the intelligence and moral worth which is to be found more or less in all classes of society. This I think I could not have done if I had consented to have attached to them the name of 'chartist.'"

He was not individually ashamed of being called a chartist, but the bill prepared by the council of the Union having embodied these principles, and having secured the substance, he had no wish to make the shadow a bugbear to frighten the timid amongst those whose aid we seek. He could not, however, blind himself to the odium which had been brought upon that party by the conduct of its professed leaders, with a bright exception—

"Yes, gentlemen, I will be bold to affirm that a majority of the addresses of professed chartist leaders for the last two years have had a tendency only to sow strife and discontent between the middle and working classes, and that these addresses and meetings, which have been held under the guise of chartism, have been nothing more than meetings and speeches in support of monopoly and oppression, restrictions upon our trade, and the limitation of our food, and to such a pitch has this disgusting hypocrisy been carried, that but a few days ago, a man who dubs himself the champion of the people had the effrontery to insult the starving millions of his own countrymen by boasting that when he had a seat in the house of Commons, he voted in favour of the accursed and inhuman bread tax. Gentlemen, with such men and such proceedings I wish to have no connexion, and believing, as I do, that to have allowed them to fix upon us their name would have been to make us partake of their bad odour also, I thought it best to separate from the majority of the conference, and pursue our object in our own way."

Mr Dracup proposed, and C. Bury, Esq., seconded a vote of thanks to Mr Warren for his services, which was carried by acclamation. Mr Warren briefly replied, and Mr Abel Heywood moved a resolution which pledged the meeting to agitate for the system of representation embodied in the bill brought before the late conference, and referred to by Mr Warren, and prefaced it with a few observations on the bill adopted by the conference, and expressed his disapprobation of the conduct of those chartists who had disturbed their meetings. The resolution was seconded by Mr Haslam, who adverted to a few of the fallacies urged against extended representation. Mr Cooper, bookseller, Bridge street, supported the motion, and expressed his conviction that the time was coming when the great body of the chartists would desert the advocates of violence, and bless the day that a new and peaceful agitation like this had sprung up more efficiently to supply its place. The resolution was carried, and after a vote of thanks to Messrs Harvey for closing their works to enable their workpeople to be present, and a similar compliment to the chairman, the meeting separated.

EDINBURGH.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Edinburgh was held in the Rev. Dr Ritchie's church, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of hearing a report of the proceedings at the Birmingham conference, from the delegates who had represented Edinburgh in that body—Mr John Watson was called to the chair. Mr Henry Rankin then made his report, and stated he voted for Mr Lovett's amendment, but added, "Such was the course I pursued, although, seeing what has been the result, a better might have been adopted." He was followed by Mr John Dunlop, of Brocklock, who thought that under the circumstances, it was better for the separation between the two parties to take place, as after the amendment had been carried, he was convinced from what he saw, that had they continued together nothing but disagreeable discussions and contentions would have taken place during the remainder of their sittings, and therefore, he had felt it his duty to agree to the separation, and to go with the minority. He then alluded to the bill which had been agreed to by the minority, and said that he believed it would do more to break down the prejudices of the middle classes than any means that had yet been employed. Mr Robert Lowery and Dr Ritchie succeeded, and gave an account of the manner in which they had voted. The latter speaker considered the result of the conference a glorious one, whatever some might be inclined to think. Mr Cukman, in an effective speech, then proposed, that

"This meeting express their confirmed adherence to the scheme of 'complete or universal suffrage'; and their persuasion, alike from the report of friends and the comments of opponents, that the cause has been advanced by the conference lately held in Birmingham. This meeting, while they regret every appearance of disunion among brethren pursuing the same laudable object, congratulate themselves and their fellow-suffragists that the separation at Birmingham did not turn upon or imply any discord as to principle, as will more fully appear upon inspection of the documents issued by both parties. This meeting give to all their delegates full credit for honesty of intention in working out what they believed to be the purpose of their constituents: they trust that seeming evil will be overruled for good, and that the things which have happened will, in their issues, turn out for the furtherance of the one common end—the obtaining of the electoral franchise for every man (except the insane and the criminal), from twenty-one years old and upwards."

"This meeting, highly approving of the friendly feeling reciprocated by the separating parties, would earnestly press its manifestation in all after proceedings, and would urge upon every existing organisation the value of sound argument and moral power—the impossibility of carrying a good cause by brute force—the duty and interest of doing as we would be done by—the right of every association to hold its own meetings unassailed, except by reason and suasion—and the unseemliness of the friends of freedom imitating its enemies in their most tyrannical measures—'Gagging bills' and the 'suppression of public meetings for discussion.' This meeting pledge themselves to allow to others the liberty they claim for themselves, knowing that they are thus giving a practical demonstration of their hostility to all class legislation and class dominancy."

Mr Cockburn moved, that by way of amendment the following addition should be made:—"But that this meeting is of opinion that the delegates would have best served the cause of the people, had they acted with the majority of the conference." A good deal of rather noisy discussion ensued upon the

amendment and the motion. The result was that an adjournment of the discussion to a future day was agreed upon, and a committee appointed to call the meeting.

DUNFERMLINE.—On Monday evening the 9th instant, a public meeting was held in the baptist chapel to receive a report of the proceedings of the Birmingham conference, from their delegate, Mr A. Fleming. The church was respectably filled. Mr Fleming gave a particular and detailed account of the whole proceedings, and the votes he gave on the various motions submitted to the conference, and concluded by expressing his willingness to answer any question which might be put to him. Questions of a querulous description were put by a few individuals, which Mr F. answered to the satisfaction of the meeting, and a unanimous vote of approval of his conduct in supporting Mr Sturge and the council of the Complete Suffrage Union, was passed; also a resolution in favour of the principles of the charter without reference to parties. The meeting broke up at eleven o'clock.—*Fife Herald*.

General News.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The Paris journals continue to be almost exclusively occupied with the right of search question, and the resumed debate on the address in the House of Peers on Saturday. M. Guizot did not evade the attacks of the opposition on the foreign policy of France, excepting solely on the question of the right of search, upon which, probably, he reserves himself for the Chamber of Deputies. It was believed that his interposition on that point was not absolutely called for in the Chamber of Peers, where a feeling of *ennui* had already (on Saturday) begun to prevail, clearly indicating that no amendment would be carried. The expected speech of Count Mole might impart some life to the debate on Monday, but it will probably be more exculpatory of himself for having acted upon the treaties of 1831 and 1833, than condemnatory of them or their principles. It was generally believed, in fact, that Count Mole will neither attack nor defend ministers, leaving to the Chambers the decision of a question personal to himself in some sort, for in the event of M. Guizot's retirement, he would inevitably and necessarily be his successor. Whatever should be the result of the discussion in the Chamber of Peers, there seemed to be no doubt that there would be a paragraph inserted in the address of the Chamber of Deputies, calling for the modification of the treaties of 1831 and 1833.

The deputies of the left centre met on Saturday evening, in the saloon of M. Thiers. Fifty members were present out of the seventy who constitute that fraction of the Chamber. The meeting deliberated on the course which it was expedient for them to pursue during the debate on the address, but particularly on the question of the right of search. Several members agreed to present a sub-amendment, should the paragraph inserted in the address by the committee not express the opinion of the left centre upon that point. The assembly was almost unanimous in demanding that negotiations be entered into for the repeal of the treaties of 1831 and 1833. This, it appears, was the course recommended by M. Thiers.

On Wednesday, Lord Cowley had a long conference with M. Guizot at the Foreign office. The Spanish question and the right of search are stated to have been warmly discussed at that interview.

Count de Ratti-Menton, says the *Constitutionnel*, has been named consul at Canton. He is to set out in a short time, charged to draw up a work on the commercial relations that France may have in future with the Chinese empire.

PORTUGAL.

Lisbon news to the 16th inst was received by the Iberia steamer. The debates on the Queen's speech commenced on that day in both Chambers, and threatened to be of a stormy character. Before the steamer left Oporto, however, a telegraphic dispatch was received from Lisbon by the Governor of that city, announcing that the address in answer to the speech from the throne, lately delivered, had been carried, almost without discussion, by a majority of 69 to 21 votes. When former debates on the address have occupied several weeks, this very speedy settlement of the question is calculated to convey a favourable impression of the strength of the government. The negotiations for the tariff convention remained of course in the same position.

SPAIN.

It appears from the *Madrid* papers that the parliamentary coalition had dissolved itself, in consequence of the inability of its members to agree upon the terms of a manifesto which they intended addressing to the country in vindication of their conduct. A circular had been forwarded by the Minister of the Interior to all the political chiefs throughout the kingdom, recommending them, in accordance with the 14th article of the 17th of October, 1837, "to suspend the circulation of every publication which they might have good reason to consider likely to compromise public tranquillity." The minister states that the periodical press had of late reached such a pitch of licentiousness, that it no longer respected the king, the inviolability of the king, or of the man invested by the constitution with regal authority; and that it openly attacked the monarchical principle, one of the bases of the fundamental law given to itself by the nation. "The government," it adds, "does not contemplate the adoption of arbitrary measures against the press." The national guards, on their side, were preparing a manifesto to their

brethren of all the corps of militia, exhorting them to uphold the existing institutions, and resist to the utmost the attempts of intriguers to disturb the peace of Spain.

The Progresista electors held a meeting on the evening of the 13th in the chapel of San Isidore, under the presidency of Senator Juan Lasana. Their object was to devise means of insuring the return of the candidates of that party at the next election. They adopted the following programme—"The constitution of 1837, neither more nor less than the throne of Queen Isabel II. and the regency of the illustrious Duke of Victoria." After some discussion, they agreed on the appointment of a committee of twelve members, who were to present a list of candidates at their next meeting.

From accounts, dated 15th inst., it appears that the speech delivered by the King of the French, on opening the Chambers had not produced a satisfactory impression in Madrid. Reports of a change in the Spanish ministry were again afloat. The *Corresponsal* states that M. Capaz was the only member of the present administration likely to retain office, and that his colleagues would be Messrs Gonzales, Infante, Alonzo, Linage, and Valle or Santos Ruiz for the finances. According to *El Sol*, the new ministry would be composed as follows:—Messrs Francisco Lujan, minister of the interior; Landero, of justice; Pedro Chacon, of war; Capaz, of the navy; Rodriguez Real, of the finances; and Jose Maria Calatrava, of foreign affairs and president of the council. In case of a refusal on the part of the latter, M. Almadovar would continue in that office.

THE LEVANT.

We regret to find that the Levant steamer, which was the bearer of the mail due at Marseilles on the 11th instant, had not yet (on the 19th instant) been heard of. No account of the missing packet from Algiers had yet reached France; little hope remained, therefore, that they had outlived the tempest, which, it appears, extended from the British channel to the coast of Egypt. A mail from Malta, however, brings dates from Beyrout of Dec. 15, and Malta of the 8th inst. Private letters from Beyrout of the 15th ult. state, that the account of the appointment of a Christian prince over the Christian part of the mountains, had produced a most tranquillising effect among all classes of the population. The Sheikh Shibley-el-Arian had made his submission to Ahmed, Pasha of Damascus, who had presented him with a shawl and pelisse. The marauding parties, who intercepted for some time the communications between Beyrout and Damascus, had returned to their homes, and the mail from the latter arrived on the 15th without accident.

WEST INDIES.

The royal mail steamer, Trent, Captain Boxer, arrived at Falmouth on Sunday, with West India, Jamaica, and Havannah mails. She left St Thomas's on the 26th of December, Bermuda on the 3rd of January, and Fayal on the 16th. She brings on freight, 50,000 dollars, 137 sercons of indigo and cochineal, and 17 passengers. After having landed her mails, she proceeded for Southampton. No accounts had been received in any of the West India islands of her Majesty's ship Victor, the missing vessel. The Jamaica House of Assembly had nearly closed their sessions, and the best feeling existed between the Governor and the Legislative Assembly. The crops throughout the island were looking well, and the season has been propitious.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

FRANKFORT, JAN. 10.—The diet of the confederation will have its first sitting this year on the 19th of this month. Count Von Drutsoff, the representative of Prussia, will preside.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The *Morning Herald* publishes a letter from Constantinople, containing the account of the murder of two British officers traveling in Central Asia:—"The two officers in question were Colonel Stoddart, formerly attached to the mission in Persia, and Captain Conolly, who wrote a most interesting work of his travels in Central Asia, and who was here in 1837 or 1838. They were seized by the authorities of Bokhara as spies, and could, it is said, have got away through the favour of the Russian political agent, but refused his assistance; and, after a number of trials and sufferings, they were at last taken from prison to the market-place, where Colonel Stoddart was first beheaded. That having been done, Captain Conolly could still have saved himself had he consented to embrace Islamism. He firmly rejected this offer, and he also immediately fell under the headsman's knife. Such is the relation as I learned it. Both must have been government agents, one bound to Khiva, the other to Khokan. Communications with that distant part of the world are so irregular and uncertain, that it strikes me as being still possible that our countrymen alluded to may be in existence, whilst their friends mourn over their death."

THE CAUCASUS.—By a Russian officer arrived within these few days, letters have been received from Georgia. The Caucasian mountaineers had been for some time pretty quiet. The Russian troops were actively engaged in the erection of forts over against Daghestan. It was, however, reported that the mountaineers were making preparations for a decisive attack. Every day disease carried off numbers of men from the Russian army. General Reithard, whom the Emperor had appointed commander, civil and military, on both sides of the Caucasus, joined the army in the beginning of December. It would seem from his first movements that he means to act decisively.

THE LATE HURRICANE.—The Mediterranean appears to have been severely visited by the storms that caused so many calamities last week in the Channel. The merchant vessel *Merola*, of Marseilles, coming from Martinique, was wrecked on the coast of San Remo; two other vessels of Marseilles, the *Trois Freres*, and the *Saint Catherine*, were lost in the Roads of Philippeville, and three others at Bona. The packets from the Levant and Algiers were eight days in arrear. The *Semaphore* of the 18th states that the wind raged with such violence at Genoa during several days that the inhabitants residing near the pier had been obliged to abandon their houses, where their lives were in danger. Several vessels had been thrown on the Italian coast. The *Charlemagne* steam packet, which left Naples on the 7th for Marseilles, did not enter this last harbour until the 17th. Assailed off Leghorn by a violent tempest, she was obliged to seek refuge in that port, and remain there during several days. The French Levant packet *Rhames*, which left Marseilles for Malta on the 11th, was obliged to stop at Genoa until the 14th, on which day the *Herculeanum*, which was to have sailed from Naples on the 11th, had not reached Genoa. No intelligence had been received of the Eurotas government steamer, carrying the Levant mail, which was due at Marseilles on the 11th inst. Much damage was done on the coast of France, and many persons were killed by lightning. The *Journal de Contances* states that a whirlwind of extraordinary violence passed over part of the town on the 11th instant, and did considerable damage, taking away stones, slates, and tiles, and stripping several houses. A letter from Bourges, of the 13th, mentions that for five days a tempest had been raging in the neighbourhood, and had committed some ravages. From Brussels we learn that the wind blew with such violence on Friday morning that the railroad train, which left Antwerp at half-past ten o'clock, was obliged to stop several times between Mechlin and Vilverde. The cover of the baggage-wagon was blown off and thrown under the wheels of the last carriage. The train was stopped in time to prevent much damage; but the stoker was thrown into a ditch and severely hurt.

THE METCALFE TESTIMONIAL.—The public will be gratified to learn that the House of Assembly at Jamaica have unanimously voted three thousand guineas for the erection of a marble statue in front of the square, in Spanish Town, to perpetuate the memory of our late highly esteemed governor Sir Charles T. Metcalfe.—*Chronicle*.

THE PRESS IN PRUSSIA.—A young poet of the name of Herwegh, a native of Switzerland, who had for some time been connected with a Leipzig newspaper, was about to undertake the management of a newspaper at Konigsberg. The democratical spirit of his writings had alarmed the Prussian government. The King sent for Mr Herwegh; endeavoured, it would appear, to conciliate him by professions of personal respect, and to intimidate him by declarations of professional relentlessness; and dismissed him with the chivalrous declaration, "We will be honourable enemies." On the same day that this interview took place, the ministers of the King prohibited the publication of the journal Mr Herwegh was about to edit. The poet addressed a letter to the King, the contents of which he professed "are strictly betwixt ourselves," but which somehow or other found its way into the *Leipzig Universal Journal*, with which the writer is known to be connected. Mr Herwegh has, in consequence, been ordered to withdraw from the Prussian dominions; and an ordinance has been issued forbidding the Prussian post offices to transmit the *Leipzig Universal Journal*. The *Cologne Gazette*, and probably the other journals of the Prussian provinces, has received notice from the censors, that conformably to strict directions from superior authority, it is not to insert in its columns in future any article from the *Leipsic Allgemeine Zeitung*, which may have been copied into other journals, either wholly or in part, or in an abstract. The same regulation applies to all articles, whether of our own or foreign journals, in which the prohibition of that journal is blamed; articles in favour of the prohibition are not yet forbidden. From this rigorous prohibition, which will doubtless be extended to all the journals in the Prussian dominions (if it is not already), it is evident that it is intended to prevent the public in Prussia from learning anything of the contents of the *Leipsic Journal*. This severe means seems to do away with the hope that the prohibition would be revoked.

A letter, dated Constantinople, the 28th ult., published in the *Augsburg Gazette*, announces, that Nasi Effendi had been appointed to succeed Reschid Pasha at the court of Paris, and Nouri Effendi to negotiate a treaty with Schah of Persia.

The *Leipsic Gazette* announces that the King of Prussia apprised the directors of the Cologne railroad that his Majesty, in order to encourage their enterprise, had decided that the indemnity, which, by the 38th section of the Railroad act, was to be paid by the company to the administration of the post office, should be remitted.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

ANTI-CORN-LAW AGITATION.—Meetings during the past week have been held in various parts of the metropolis, and among others at Lambeth, St Martin's-in-the-fields, Islington, &c. Lectures have been delivered by Mr Buckingham, Mr Sidney Smith, and Mr Fox. A notice has appeared that "a deputation from the Council of the National Anti-corn-law League will sit daily at the Crown and Anchor, from eleven o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of receiving subscriptions, and communicating with their friends in the

metropolis as to the progress already made in the cause, and to confer with them as to the most efficient means for promoting further contributions to the great League fund." The League contemplates holding weekly meetings in the metropolis, on the plan of those held at Manchester. At a meeting of the principal members of the Anti-corn-law association at the Crown and Anchor on Thursday, to confer with a deputation from the League, consisting of Henry Ashworth, Esq., of Bolton, Hamer Stansfeld, Esq., Leeds, and William Evans, Esq., Manchester, it was resolved, "That it is the opinion of this meeting, that a weekly meeting should be held at the Crown and Anchor of the representatives of the various local associations and Anti-corn-law committees of this metropolis, for the purpose of making and hearing reports of the progress of the London movement, and conferring with the deputation of the National Anti-corn-law League."

MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES.—A meeting of the Justices of Middlesex took place on Thursday. Mr Turk read a copy of the will of the late Miss Mary Phillips, of Nova Scotia, who recently died at Bologna, from which it appeared that that lady had bequeathed to four charitable institutions in London, St George's hospital, the Blind school, the Welsh school, and the Hanwell Lunatic asylum respectively, a very considerable sum of money. The report of the visiting justices of the House of Correction, Coldbath fields, was read. The number of prisoners was 1,059—there being 801 males, 258 females, and ten boys, in general healthy. In the New Prison the prisoners were healthy, and the rules of the prison duly observed. The number in custody was 69 males, 27 females, and 18 boys. The Chaplain tendered his resignation, in consequence of ill health. A letter was read from a discharged convalescent patient of the Asylum, who had "personally experienced the tender mercies of private asylums," bearing testimony to the excellent effect of the judicious and humane system pursued at Hanwell.

At a court of Common Council held on Thursday, a final report was received from the Blackfriars Bridge committee, submitting their closing accounts, and recommending that certain duties which remain to be performed should devolve upon the Bridge-house committee. The report was affirmed. Another from the Royal Exchange and Gresham Trust committee, stated that Sir Richard Westmacott had been engaged to embellish the tympanum of the portico to the new Exchange, at a cost not to exceed £3,150.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE SIR R. PEEL'S SECRETARY.—About four o'clock on Friday afternoon, a most determined attempt was made to assassinate Mr Drummond, the private secretary of Sir Robert Peel, on his return from his brother's bank at Charing cross. When between the Admiralty and Horse Guards, a respectable looking man approached him from behind, and seemingly determined not to fail in the perpetration of the foul deed which he contemplated, actually put the muzzle of the pistol into his back. He then fired. Immediately after the pistol was discharged, a policeman, who had witnessed the act, instantly rushed up and seized the criminal. In the meantime he had returned the pistol with which he had shot Mr Drummond to his breast, and had drawn out another loaded pistol from the same place, and was in the act of pointing it at Mr Drummond, when the policeman seized him and pinioned his arms from behind. The pistol was discharged, but the aim of the assassin being thus diverted, the contents did not touch any person. Mr Drummond was immediately conveyed to his brother's bank, and afterwards to his own residence. Mr Guthrie, Mr Bransby Cooper, the eminent surgeons, and Mr Jackson, surgeon and apothecary, were in attendance, and proceeded to examine the wound. It was then ascertained that the ball had entered near the spine, and that it had made a circuit either over the hip-bone or under the lower rib, and then lodged near the pit of the stomach under the breast; whence the ball was extracted by Mr Guthrie without any difficulty, as it lay near the surface. When the assassin was seized by the policeman he made a slight resistance; but was soon overpowered, disarmed, and taken to the station house in Gardiner's lane, where he was charged "with attempting to assassinate, by shooting at him with two loaded pistols, near Charing cross, Mr Edward Drummond, the private secretary of Sir R. Peel." There was nothing insane in his appearance, nor did he seem overcome by the sense of his position. Mr Mayne, the commissioner of police, was summoned, and the prisoner was examined; but little could be drawn from him. He stated that his name was Daniel M'Naughten; but he refused to make any further disclosure whatever. He was searched, and there were found on him two five pound notes, four pounds in gold, and a deposit receipt of a Glasgow bank for £750, made out in the name of "Daniel M'Naughten." On his way to the station house he repeatedly said that "he knew what he was about." For the last fortnight he has been seen loitering about during office hours in the neighbourhood of the Home office and Downing street. On Saturday morning the prisoner was examined at Bow street, before Mr Hall and a crowded court. Nothing material was elicited during the examination. The policeman said that when the prisoner was seized he exclaimed, "He's for me, she shall not disturb my mind any longer." At the close of the examination the prisoner was removed, but desired to return, as he wished to say something. His request was complied with, and he then said as follows:—

"The folks in my native city have compelled me to do this; they follow and persecute me wherever I go, and have entirely destroyed my peace of mind. They followed me to France, into Scotland, and all over England; in fact, they follow me wherever I go; I can get no rest for them night or day. I

cannot sleep at nights, in consequence of the course they pursue towards me. I believe they have driven me into a consumption. I am sure I shall never be the man I formerly was. I used to have good health and strength, but I have not now. They have accused me of crimes of which I am not guilty; they have done everything in their power to harass and persecute me, in fact they wish to murder me. It can be proved by evidence—that's all I wish to say at present."

The prisoner was taken to Tothill-fields prison, but during the whole of Sunday evinced the greatest calmness, and his demeanour was precisely the same as though he had been entirely innocent. It appears that M'Naughten had resided for the last 16 weeks at the house of a widow named Dutton, in Poplar row, New Kent road, was of a very quiet turn of mind, and very poor. He frequently left his lodgings; and in October last went to Scotland for a short time. On his return he appeared more gloomy and taciturn, but his habits were remarkably sober and steady. A messenger from the home office, accompanied by a police officer, was despatched to Glasgow on Saturday morning, for the purpose of discovering if he had any connexions there. During Saturday an unfavourable change took place in Mr Drummond's symptoms, and inflammation began to appear. He was, however, bled several times in the course of the day, which proved very beneficial. Frequent consultations of the medical advisers took place, and at half-past 10 on Sunday night an announcement was made, that Mr Drummond was as well as could be expected, and his wound was going on favourably. Frequent inquiries were made by the nobility and gentry in town as to the state of Mr Drummond's health.

MONUMENT TO MUIR AND PALMER.—On Saturday the Marylebone vestry held a meeting, at which, in consequence of the injunction threatened by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, a resolution was passed, withdrawing the sanction of the vestry for using the ground in the Regent circus for the erection of the monument in honour of the "Scottish Martyrs." Mr Gomm proposed a resolution that Mr Hume be required "to fill up the hole" which had been caused by the excavation for the foundation, but the motion was lost.

EVILS OF WOOD PAVEMENT.—On Thursday last at a meeting for local purposes, Sir P. Laurie made rather a startling statement of the increase of accidents that had arisen from the prevalent adoption of wood pavement, and trusted that the proper authorities would interfere to prevent its further extension. He gave the following facts to corroborate his assertion:—

"Very lately three women had been killed in consequence of the difficulty of checking the horses of omnibuses, and two drivers had been tried and acquitted, the jury having agreed that it was impossible to exercise any control over horses traveling over such a perilous surface. On Monday morning he had witnessed a curious sight. As the blues were returning from the Horse Guards to their barracks, they all dismounted in Argyll street, in which the wooden pavement is laid down, and led their horses until they reached Portland street, where the stone pavement recommenced, and, upon making inquiry, he learned that the extraordinary action of dismounting was occasioned by the severe fall of a soldier upon the wooden pavement, upon which a horse of any spirit could scarcely stand. He was on the bench when a driver of one of Cloud's omnibuses was tried by Lord Denman, for having run over a man in Coventry street, in which the wooden pavement was laid down, and the prisoner was acquitted, proof having been given that it was impossible for the driver of an omnibus to pull up on such a surface. At the last sessions a cabman was acquitted before Baron Gurney upon similar grounds; and Mr Payne had recently held an inquest upon an unfortunate young female who was killed in the Poultry."

Sir P. Laurie hoped that the inhabitants would maturely deliberate upon the subject, which he, as a magistrate of the city, considered it to be his duty to bring forward in order to arouse them to exertion. The court then adjourned.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM IN THE METROPOLIS.—On inquiries being made at the various hospitals on Saturday morning, relative to the accidents that had been admitted into them, occasioned by the storm which commenced early on the morning of Friday, it was stated that in Middlesex hospital there were 15 serious accidents (one is expected to be fatal); in St George's, 16; Westminster, 10; Charing cross, 11; King's college, 14; and London university, 8.

FOUR CHILDREN POISONED.—The following serious occurrence, which had nearly been attended with fatal consequences, took place on Wednesday last in the family of a sergeant of police at Kensington. A friend having sent a present of a twelfth-cake with several painted figures thereon, it was distributed amongst the four children, of the respective ages of two, four, seven, and nine years, about two o'clock in the afternoon, just previous to the two eldest going to school. About four o'clock one of them returned home vomiting dreadfully, and shortly afterwards the other came home similarly affected. Both complained of violent pain and heat in the stomach, of which also the other two complained, and were shortly afterwards seized with vomiting. A surgeon was promptly called in, who, on seeing the children, and ascertaining what they had eaten, declared they had been poisoned by the paint with which the figures were coloured. Proper remedies were immediately applied, but all efforts to stop the vomiting were unsuccessful until eleven o'clock at night, by which time two of the children were nearly exhausted. On Thursday they were rather better, and it was considered they were likely to recover. It was also ascertained that one of the children of the person by whom the cake was sent had been similarly seized.

PROVINCIAL.

THE CORN LAWS.—From all the reports of agricultural meetings, we perceive that it is now assumed as certain that there is to be no change in the corn law this year. At the Great Torrington Farmer's club, Lord Clinton observed, that "It would no doubt be gratifying to the company to hear from him that he was given to understand, through friends who ought to be acquainted with what was likely to be done next session of parliament as regards the corn laws, that there would be no change in the existing law."

CAPTAIN PECHELL AND THE CORN LAWS.—On Saturday last, Captain Pechell, M.P. for Brighton, gave his annual dinner to his tenantry at Patching, Sussex. The party was joined by several neighbouring agriculturists. Captain Pechell said, whatever might have been the intention of the ministers two months since, with respect to the corn laws, it was now, he thought, very clear that the landed interest would not suffer any alteration to be made in them during the ensuing session. He had hitherto supported the principle of a fixed duty on the importation of foreign corn, as leading to more steady and regular prices; but public opinion prevailed, and he believed neither fixed duties nor sliding scales would be much longer tolerated.

P. AINSWORTH, Esq., M.P.—A requisition, of which the following is a copy, is in progress in this borough, and has received 280 signatures in two days:—"To Peter Ainsworth, Esq., Smithills hall, near Bolton—We, the undersigned, being electors of the borough of Bolton, do hereby request you to meet the electors of Bolton, at a convenient time and place, as early as possible before the meeting of parliament, to explain to them the reasons for the extraordinary change which has taken place in your opinions on the corn laws, and to state to them the course you intend to pursue on that subject during the next session."—*Bolton Free Press.*

SOUTHAMPTON, JAN. 23.—The South Western company's steamer, Calpe, which left this port on the night of the dreadful gale, for Havre, was obliged to seek shelter in Hastings, and could not proceed on her voyage before last Tuesday. She has, in many instances, proved herself an admirable sea boat: and nothing but her strength and the skill with which she was managed, could have saved her from the fate which so many met with on that fatal night. The Lady Mary Wood, Captain Cooper, sailed from Southampton, on Saturday, for Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar. At the same time, also, the Tagus, Captain Evans, sailed for Gibraltar, Syria, Smyrna, Athens, and Constantinople. The Tagus is sent out on a pleasure trip to allow travelers to visit the celebrated places in the Mediterranean. The Iberia arrived from the Peninsula yesterday. Some surprise was excited last week, in consequence of the clerk to the poor law guardians having been committed for a misdemeanour, for refusing to produce documents for the satisfaction of the assistant poor law commissioner in this district. It appears highly probable that the management of the poor of this place will be taken shortly out of the hands of the townspeople of Southampton, and lodged with the poor law commissioners. A melancholy occurrence took place yesterday, in the sudden death of Mr Humby, a respectable tradesman in this town. His house had been entered and robbed on Saturday night, and having received some information as to the locality of the robbers, he was proceeding to the railway terminus with a policeman, when he suddenly dropped down lifeless. Mr Humby was a clerk of Zion chapel, in this town, and was universally respected as an industrious and estimable man. He has left a large family to lament his unexpected and melancholy death.

STRIKE IN THE WELSH COLLIERIES.—The cessation from colliery labour still continues in the county of Monmouth. Mr Superintendent Davies, of the Merthyr district of the Glamorgan constabulary, having received information on the morning of the 16th instant, of an intended movement of the Gellygare and Monmouthshire colliers to Mr Powell's colliery, Dyffryn Aberdare, for the purpose of compelling the men of those works to strike, proceeded to Aberdare with a strong force, to act in conjunction with that stationed there already. Precautionary measures were taken, and at four p.m. about 1,000 of them appeared at these works. Their leaders acted with great caution, and advised order. They did not attempt to turn out those who wished to work. The mob perceiving that there was not the slightest chance of their effecting their object, and that they would meet with a warm reception if they tried to disturb the peace of the neighbourhood, gradually dispersed, and before the next morning, not one of the number was to be seen. Proper precautions were taken by the superintendent to prevent injury to the works by any stragglers, and all the lodging-houses and beer-houses were searched, strangers being warned to depart. It appears that in consequence of these disturbances, Colonel E. Lawrence, commandant of the Chatham division of the royal marines, had received an order from the Admiralty to forward immediately from his division a detachment of men comprising 27 rank and file, 1 sergeant, and 1 corporal, for Milfordhaven.

THE IRON AND NAIL TRADE.—The Worcester Chronicle states, that in addition to 263 inmates of the Stourbridge union house, which is as many as the place will hold, there was an increase of 219 applicants at the last weekly meeting of the board of guardians, the majority of whom were nailers. The account adds—"Such is the state of this district at present, with every prospect of its becoming worse. The iron masters' quarterly meetings, just ended,

were of a most gloomy character; the tendency of the price of iron is still downward, to meet which, as far as it will do so, a further reduction in wages is generally spoken of, and at some of the works notice to that effect has already been given to the men."

DISTRESS IN LEEDS.—There is no proof so decisive of severe, protracted, and wide-spread distress as when it begins to produce a marked effect on the increase of the population, and still more on their morals—when it prevents marriages, diminishes the number of births, increases the number of deaths, and increases the amount of vice. This decisive proof is now afforded in the superintendent registrar's district of Leeds, which comprises the borough of Leeds, and a small adjacent district in one direction. The following are the particulars:—Number of marriages in Leeds—In 1840, 1623; in 1841, 1587; in 1842, 1408; being a decrease of 13 per cent from 1840 to 1842. Number of births—In 1840, 6553; in 1841, 6685; in 1842, 6357. Here, then, we see marriages and births diminishing, when there ought to have been an increase, as the effect of a previous rapid increase in the population; and at the same time deaths increasing, and the bonds of morality loosening. When these facts are added to the augmentation of the poor rates, which have just been raised 50 per cent in this township, irresistible proof is afforded of the existence of deep and general distress.—*Leeds Mercury*.

STOPPAGE OF THE SHEFFIELD BANK.—The old-established bank of Messrs Parker, Shore, and Co., stopped payment last week, and is said to be the most severe commercial calamity that has ever befallen the town of Sheffield. The senior partner, Mr Parker, has, for upwards of half a century, been held in the highest respect and estimation by his townsmen, having discharged the duties of a magistrate during that long period. His partners have also been prominent in every public movement for the diffusion of civil and religious liberty. Of this event the *Sheffield Independent* says:—

"Had an earthquake engulfed half the town, it could scarcely have given a greater shock to the remainder than the public of Sheffield received on Monday morning from the announcement of the failure of the Old bank. Established about seventy years ago, it had acquired a maturity of character, that made it as trustworthy, in the eyes of the public generally, as the Bank of England itself. The stoppage of the bank has made a frightful revelation of the poverty of the town. We believe that, for several years past, where one man has been growing richer, or even keeping his ground, at least ten have been growing poorer. This week has witnessed such a series of disclosures as have never before been known. The next step will be, that many manufacturers must cease to employ even the small number of hands they have work for, for want of money wherewith to pay wages. Stocks must be sold at any price. Ere long, the assignees under the bankruptcy must take steps to recover the debts due to the bank, and very many persons, it is to be feared, will prove to be insolvent. Our prospects for the year, gloomy as they were before, are fearfully darkened. Increased misery, overwhelming poor rates, and bankruptcies and insolvencies without number, may be expected. The favourable circumstance in the events of the week is that the other banks have escaped a run. Such a result was greatly to be apprehended, and would have been an immense aggravation of the calamity. The banks were well prepared, and would no doubt have outstood the panic. But they would have been compelled to look entirely to their existing liabilities, and to refuse all accommodation, even to the most solvent customers of Messrs Parker, Shore, and Co. The result would have been incalculably disastrous."

PROGRESS OF MACHINERY.—As an instance of the progress of machinery, we can state that the principal manufacturing concern in this town will, after the whole of the contemplated improvements are completed, have, besides other machinery, 1,440 power-looms, each of which will be able to produce weekly six pieces of 25 yards, making a weekly aggregate of 122 miles and 280 yards of cloth.—*Preston Chronicle*.

FARMING IN LANCASHIRE.—The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* who signs his communications "One who has whistled at the Plough," gives a very unfavourable account of the state of farming in Cheshire and Lancashire. The farmers are all at present downcast, on account of the falling off in their markets. "I have seen," he says, "farmers in the towns and on their own farms, in and around Stockport, Bolton, Preston, and Lancaster, and all of them have the one complaint, namely—'We cannot sell half of what we sold in the towns in either milk, butter, cheese, fruit, or vegetables; the factory people are not able to buy; work is scarce, and money scarcer.'" But he adds—"This depression in respect of the ready markets which daily and weekly furnished the dairy farmers and market gardeners with ready money for their produce, is deepened in gloom to a stranger's eye by the poor, spiritless style of management, which again is aggravated by the absurd conditions on which the tenants hold their land."

MINING ON A LARGE SCALE.—Dover is likely to be next week the scene of an explosion of gunpowder unparalleled in civil engineering. No less a quantity than 18,000lbs., in three distinct charges, will be fired by galvanic means in one moment, that being the extent of the enormous power about to be used. The whole arrangements have been carried on by government, at the expense of the London and Dover Railway company, Lieutenant Hutchinson, royal engineers, superintending the whole, under General Paisley's directions. It is expected that nearly 2,000,000 tons of materials will be displaced by this one operation, saving several thousand pounds to the company. The explosion will take place on Thursday, at low water, from 2 to 3 o'clock, p.m. A Dover correspondent informs us that a large influx of visitors is expected to witness this very interesting experiment. We trust the directors will take

care that proper arrangements are made at Ashford for forwarding visitors who arrive from London.—*Railway Times*.

THE BOX TUNNEL.—There is a remarkable lie traveling through merry England at this present moment—to wit, that the Great Western Railway company have determined to take the top off the Box tunnel—to unbox it and make it no tunnel at all, just as the Highgate arch people served their tunnel some 30 years ago. We are enabled to state from authority, and that is no less than the company's engineer, resident at Box, that the company have never contemplated the act—that it would cost two millions of money to excavate the work, and almost another million to carry away, and purchase land on which to deposit the excavated earth. We hope after this statement of facts that the enormous lie will lie still and not be heard of more.—*Western Times*.

SHOCKING EVENT.—On Friday afternoon, a considerable sensation was created in Warrington, by the report that one brother had met his death by the hands of another, and that the other had been badly wounded also. The following are the facts, as far as our correspondent has been enabled to collect them:—Bewsey farm, near Warrington, is tenanted by a respectable farmer, named Crosby, who is assisted in his agricultural occupation by several sons. On Friday afternoon, one of these sons, Thomas Crosby, and one of his younger brothers, went out rabbit shooting over the farm; and, on their return, prior to the fowling pieces being discharged, or laid aside, a quarrel took place between them. From words they got to blows, and, in the heat of passion, Thomas Crosby was struck on the head by his brother with the butt end of his gun, which, going off at the moment, the contents barely escaped entering the thigh of the party striking. The stock of the gun was shattered to pieces, and such was the force of the blow, that a portion of the lock of the gun fractured the skull and lacerated Thomas Crosby's brain. Medical assistance was immediately obtained; but, at six o'clock in the evening, he was lying in the most dangerous state, the surgeons having no hope of his recovery.—*Manchester Guardian*.

THE "CENTRIFUGAL RAILWAY" EXHIBITION.—We regret to learn that a very serious accident occurred a few days ago at Manchester. A lady, named Brindle, placed herself in the carriage for the purpose of being whirled round, when, owing to some obstruction on the path of the carriage, it was precipitated to the ground, a short distance from the starting point. The lady was thrown out, and the carriage falling upon her, her thigh was broken, and she sustained other serious injuries. She was conveyed home, and a medical gentleman was promptly in attendance. She was also attended by her own medical advisers, but we understand that she is not yet out of danger.—*Manchester Courier*.

FIRE AT DEVIZES.—DESTRUCTION OF THE LITERARY INSTITUTION.—On the morning of Saturday last, a destructive fire broke out in this town, which completely destroyed the premises occupied by the members of the Literary institution, and by Mr Goldstone, surgeon-dentist. Happily the flames were, in a great measure, confined to this building, but at times great fears were entertained for the premises to the north, among which, and closely adjoining, was the timber yard of Mr Romain, builder: and for the mansion on the south side, belonging to and occupied by C. Trinder, Esq. By dint of great exertions, Mr Trinder's house was preserved almost without injury, although the roof took fire in one or two places; but the tenement adjoining on the other side, occupied by Mr Holloway, a smith, sustained considerable damage. The property of the institution, including a valuable collection of stuffed birds, fossils, &c., the philosophical apparatus, the books, and the furniture, with the glass cases, and a small portion of the fixtures were saved, although considerably damaged. We are sorry to have to state, that a great many of the labouring men who were present positively refused to render any assistance unless they were first paid. There were some exceptions, but the principal part of the aid was given by the tradesmen, professional men, and others in a superior station of life. While an endeavour was being made to get at the cellar to extinguish the coals which had ignited, the floor gave way, and a man named Charles Brewer, was partially buried in the burning mass. He was extricated as soon as possible, and taken to the Dispensary, but having been in his perilous situation, surrounded and half-buried with heated bricks and burning wood, for nearly a quarter of an hour, his condition was most deplorable, large pieces of flesh having come away with his clothes. Two other men were injured, one severely and the other slightly, and several more had narrow escapes. We regret to state that Charles Brewer died on Thursday morning of the injuries he received. A subscription had been set on foot on behalf of the sufferers, and already amounted to upwards of £100. The origin of the fire is at present unknown. It is supposed that the loss of property altogether, calculating the value of the buildings as well as of the furniture and other moveables, is from £1500 to £2000.—*Abridged from Wills Independent*.

CHILD BURNING.—The extent to which these calamitous accidents prevail throughout the country is most fearful. On looking over the provincial papers we find no less than nine cases recorded in which death has been caused by this destructive element. In every instance the suffering parties were little children, and in almost every case the event happened through the carelessness of the parents, or those to whose charge they were committed. Two children were burned to death at Worcester, one at Hagg, Lincolnshire, three at Glasgow, one at Dun-

kinfield, one at Northern, Lancashire, and one in Manchester.

Postscript.

Wednesday, January 25th, 1843.

It is with the most unfeigned regret that we are compelled to announce that the very unfavourable symptoms under which we described Mr Drummond as suffering in our last publication, very materially increased in intensity during yesterday; indeed, in such an alarming state is the unfortunate gentleman, that scarcely any hope remains of his recovery. Upon inquiry being made at half-past twelve o'clock on Tuesday night, we were informed that Mr Drummond's symptoms had not at all improved, and great fears were entertained that he would not survive the night.—*Times*.

We have just heard that Mr Drummond died about half past ten this morning.

Nothing additional has been brought to light to clear up the mystery that attaches to this diabolical attempt at assassination. The police officer at Glasgow has ascertained that M'Naughten had carried on business under respectable circumstances in that town, was very thrifty, and was a decent character. The prisoner's demeanour is very reserved. He betokens no disposition to confession, nor does he betray any symptoms of the insanity which one would suppose he at first wished to counterfeit.

A cabinet council was held yesterday afternoon, at the private residence of Lord Fitzgerald and Vesey.

Foreign news is almost destitute of interest. The Barcelona journals of the 16th inst. announce that General Seoane had commenced to execute the measures of severity with which he threatened those who should refuse to pay the war contribution. He had, in consequence, given orders to place a corporal and five private soldiers upon the house of each person in arrears; the corporal to be paid seven francs, and the soldiers five francs, per day. This tax is to be doubled the second day, tripled the third, and so on until the contribution should be paid up.

On Monday evening, an anti-corn-law demonstration took place at Ashton-under-Lyne, attended by Mr Hindley, M.P., Mr Cobden, M.P., Mr Brotherton, M.P., Colonel Thompson, Mr T. Gisborne, Mr T. McCullagh, &c., &c. The most remarkable circumstance attending the meeting was the declaration of the chairman, Mr Hindley, that he had abandoned his former opinion of the necessity of a fixed duty, and was convinced that a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws was the best for all classes, and especially the landowners.

The sixth anniversary of the Conservative association of Buckingham, took place in the Town hall of that town, on Tuesday, and was attended by about 400 persons. It is somewhat worthy of notice, that several of the recreant members for the county who left his grace the Duke alone in his glory, at the last meeting of his agricultural tenants, attended on the occasion, and spoke manfully in favour of protection, and the necessity of taking a firm and decided stand in opposing the slightest additional concession to free-trade principles. The noble Chairman followed in the same strain. Here is a sample:—

"You have, no doubt, heard with satisfaction the views of the hon. gentleman (Mr Fitzmaurice). They redound to his credit as one of the members for the county of Buckingham, and after hearing those views I feel that you can have little doubt that the members for the county will do their duty. I trust that they will now steadily maintain their position, and resist any further attempt—if such an attempt should be made—to interfere with the rights and privileges of the agricultural interest. The time is now come for the government of the Queen to take their ground. I think they have done wrong in the course they have taken with regard to agriculture, and I think, also, we are entitled to call on them to stand steady where they are, to maintain the ground on which they are now placed, and not to give way one jot further."

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE.

GLASGOW.—The directors of the Glasgow Complete Suffrage association met in Bell's coffee house on Friday last. Mr Kaird, vice-president, occupied the chair; and the secretary went over some of the more prominent features of the late conference; after which it was agreed that, although the proper province of the directors was the carrying out of the resolutions of the association, yet it was necessary, in the mean time, to give some expression of opinion on the present position of the movement; and for this purpose the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz:—

"That the thanks of the friends of complete suffrage are due to the council, and the members of conference who supported them in opposing the attempt of the majority to narrow the basis of the discussion by substituting the charter for the bill of rights, the latter document being based on the principles of complete suffrage, as defined by the first conference, which are more extensive in their application to the enfranchisement of the people than those contained in the former."

"2. That the future exertions of the Directory be chiefly directed to the effecting of a more complete and extended organisation of the citizens of Glasgow, in favour of the principles of the association, being convinced that nothing short of this will permanently ameliorate the condition of the people, and enable them to destroy the present system of monopoly under which the nation is at present suffering—an amount of misery and destitution which (unless speedily averted) threatens to overwhelm all classes in one universal ruin."

Several other measures were adopted for the carrying out of this latter resolution, after which the meeting was adjourned till Friday next.

RUTHERGLEN.—A public meeting was held here on Monday night to hear a report from Mr Pattison, of the proceedings of the conference. The hall was well filled, and a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr Pattison, also a resolution declaring it the opinion of the meeting, that the minority were *bona fide* the conference, the majority having refused to adhere to the business for which the delegates had been called together.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY. There is a large supply of English wheat, amounting to 4,400 quarters, but little business is doing.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr Solly's last letter shall be inserted next week.

"J. T." writes—"It is only three or four months since I took a copy of the *Nonconformist*, there had been only one copy in the town previously that I was acquainted with. I have now got a second subscribed for, and expect to have two more in the course of a fortnight. I am lending them to as many as possible, and have ordered pamphlets for a wider circulation." We are obliged to him for his zeal.

"P. P." requires some further consideration.

"A Landowner." We cannot insert his letter, as we have refused so many on the opposite side of the question, but he need not fear us.

"Epenetus." The time has gone by for returning to the subject.

"J. Dick." The subject shall have our serious consideration.

Our Derby correspondent's suggestion is valuable, but we fear it cannot be immediately put in practice.

"A Subscriber" should not visit the misfortune of his want of education upon every other reader. We do not often transgress in the way which has provoked his complaint.

"One of the Middle Class" declined.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25, 1843.

SUMMARY.

THE event of the week—the very lion of the political world—that without which hebdomadal intelligence would have been without its *quantum sufficit* of salt, is the speech of Lord Mountcashel at Fermoy to an audience collected by himself, but ultimately found to be unmanageable for landlord purposes. This noble peer, pricked into excitement by the parenthetical exclamations of his hearers, bled profusely true patrician blood—in other words, his lordship let the cat out of the bag. He tells us what, indeed, we knew before, and what the *Nonconformist* has over and over again asserted as the ground of its belief that the corn laws will not be repealed, that the land-owning aristocracy of the country have so heavily mortgaged their estates that the smallest diminution in the money price of corn would be absolute ruin to them. Now the landlords, placed in these circumstances, have in their hands the power of legislation. The simple question, then, offers itself for solution, By what argument will they be convinced? We suppose it is pretty well understood by this time, that—

"A man convinced against his will
Is of the same opinion still."

The question of repeal is the question of national interests as opposed to landlord interests, and a man cares for his own little finger more than he does for the whole empire of China. Whilst parliament continues to be what it now is—a machine worked by the aristocracy for aristocratic purposes—the only question by which its decisions will be governed will of course be—How does this affect the interests of landlords? Calculation of the interest required by mortgages upon estates will be the prevailing argument, and though told that the revenue is declining, that the commerce of the country is withering away, that manufactures are at a stand-still, and that the poor are starving for want of employment, the landlord's parliament will never settle the question of a free trade in corn until they can see their way clear to the payment of their enormous debts. This seems to us the common-sense view of the subject. We do not say that these men may not be overpowered, but we much question whether they will yield so long as they can make the present representative system subserve their wishes.

Meanwhile the progress of national decay continues at a fearful rate. Trade, which had given some faint indications of revival, is again relapsing into torpor. The manufacturing markets are dull and gloomy. At Sheffield the old established bank of Messrs Parker, Shore, and Co., thought to be as trustworthy as the bank of England itself, has most unexpectedly stopped payment, and produced a series of disclosures such as never before were witnessed in that town. The agricultural districts can scarcely be said to be better off. Farmers, and the tradespeople dependent on their custom, are involved in rightful difficulty. The income tax is beginning to tell its tale of annoyance and oppression. On all hands the elements of ruin are accumulating. The dark cloud is gathering, and becoming every day more portentous in hue. The very atmosphere has a sulphureous smell. All minds seem to be preparing for some terrible outburst,

not indeed of popular wrath so much as of commercial panic; and yet the gathering of parliament was never, perhaps, looked to with so striking an absence of interest, and with so little expectation. Confidence in the present system of government is well nigh worn out, and another session or two of trifling will convert the whole country to complete suffrage principles.

We are sorry to have to notice this week a most determined attempt at assassination in official circles. A man, who gives his name as Daniel McNaughten, a native of Glasgow, watching his opportunity, fired a loaded pistol at Mr Drummond, the private secretary of Sir Robert Peel, in the public street, and seriously wounded that gentleman. What could have been the motive of the miscreant it were vain at present to conjecture. Some indications favour the idea that he mistook the person of his victim, and that he had intended to take the life of Sir Robert Peel. Mr Drummond, we are happy to say, although not out of danger, is likely to recover.

The accounts received at the insurance offices of the destruction of shipping by the late hurricane are most fearful. The loss of property has been great beyond precedent. The weather, unusually mild for the season, would seem to be engendering disease in all quarters. This is a gloomy chapter of national affairs. Would that it were relieved by the dawning of a brighter day. At present, however, we have no such cheering prospect. We must submit to what is inevitable. We must actively exert ourselves to redress what is not beyond remedy.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE, THE LORDS, AND THE CROWN.

WE have given in another column, copied from the *Ipswich Express*, a brief note from Mr Sturge to the editor of that journal, in reply to a question publicly addressed to him by that gentleman a week or two since. The paragraph will be found among our notices of the complete suffrage movement, under the same heading as that prefixed to this article. To it we respectfully call the attention of our readers; and we shall avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by it for making a few remarks upon the probable bearing of complete suffrage upon what is designated the British constitution. These remarks we put before our readers with the utmost frankness, and upon our sole authority. We know not, nor have we sought to know, how far they may accord with the views entertained by the Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union, or even with those of its respected president Mr Sturge. They are not adopted to meet a special emergency. They are the fruit of many years' observation, reading, and reflection, and they are now put before our readers without the smallest reservation, simply because an occasion, which may not soon occur again, presents itself, of explaining our views on the topics touched upon by Mr Sturge's letter.

The main article of our political faith—that to which we attach supreme importance—that for the popular elucidation and legislative embodiment of which we are content to labour amid many discouragements, seeking our reward exclusively in the truth and justice of our work—is neither a novelty, nor, in the judgment even of the party politicians of our own day, a heresy. It is this. Government is for man, and not man for government; or, in other words, The people are the only proper source of political power. When the editor of the *Ipswich Express* gives utterance to an opinion that pure democracy is a bad thing, he seems to us to have no clear conception of the meaning of the terms he has employed. In his mind, it would appear that pure democracy is identified with republicanism, and is utterly incompatible with the existence of an hereditary legislative chamber, or with the maintenance of what may be called the rights of the crown. We cannot too strongly deprecate the use—on topics so exciting to human passions—of loose and indeterminate phraseology. We regard these maxims, which we have stated to contain the main article of our political creed, and to which, we doubt not, the editor of the *Ipswich Express* himself would willingly append his subscription, as expressing the very essence of pure democracy; and we look upon the equal distribution of power amongst three co-ordinate branches of legislature as a pleasant fiction, stamped in its very forehead with absurdity, and never destined to be received and acted upon in the sphere of practical life. Democracy is a *principle* of government, not a *form*. The word designates the nature of a power, but not the mode of its manifestation—the spirit which should pervade, mould, vitalise, and expand our institutions, rather than the material of the institutions themselves. It may be absent where forms of republican government are adopted; it may be present, active and vigorous, in a mixed constitution like our own. When a people can be truly said to govern themselves—when the national will, fairly ascertained, takes outward shape in national legislation, it matters not what may be the precise stages of process by which the end is se-

cured, that people is living under a pure democracy. We have all the forms now of a mixed constitution, but we are living under a pure aristocracy. Government in this country is both from them and for them. The throne is a puppet in their hands. The House of Commons is subservient to their interests. Legislation speaks their wishes. Institutions, civil and ecclesiastical, embody their views and carry out their designs; and it would be as correct to affirm—what existing facts prove to be false—that a house of commons could not consist with a pure aristocracy, as that the throne and the house of lords are necessarily antagonistic of pure democracy.

It will be seen, then, that we regard the supreme power of a state rightfully to belong alone to the whole people which that state comprehends. To them alone belong fundamental political *rights*—rights having their foundations upon the solid rock of truth and justice. Nor can we speak correctly of any political privileges, however commended by experience, or rooted in public affection, or sanctioned by time, under this designation. A community possesses an inherent and inalienable right to govern itself. An hereditary chamber can have no such right, apart from the will of the people for whose interest it is set up. We advocate the doctrines of complete suffrage on the ground of their intrinsic justice. We contend that the people constitute the only legitimate depository of supreme power; and we affirm that the continued existence of the present forms of our constitution must of necessity, and ought to, rest simply upon the basis of expediency, as ascertained by the people themselves.

Such, then, is the primary principle lying at the very foundation of all our political views. The question, as to how far it may be expedient to retain, unaltered, the present forms of our constitution, may now be dealt with, we should hope, without exposing us to misapprehension, either with the friends or the foes of the complete suffrage movement.

In one sense, we have no objection to proclaim ourselves conservatives. Organic changes, we look upon as evils of no trivial magnitude—evils to be avoided whenever their avoidance can be made compatible with the general well-being of a nation. Lapse of time, however, alteration of circumstances, diffusion of intelligence, and a contraction of new relationships, conspire to render such changes occasionally inevitable. In our judgment, they should be resorted to with extreme caution; and, when resorted to, should do as little violence as possible to national habits, customs, tastes, and general pursuits. If, for example, one principle of government is to be substituted for another, we think it the part of wisdom to retain as many of the old forms as will admit of being worked by the new principle. The inhabitants of Great Britain have unquestionably a deep attachment to, and reverence for, the general form of government at present established amongst us; nor do we think it probable that the triumphant establishment of democracy in these realms would seriously affect existing political institutions, unless those institutions were found to be uniformly wielded in obstruction of the nation's wishes.

Hereditary monarchy, or in other words, the entrusting of supreme executive authority to the hands of the eldest descendant of some one family, possesses, in our opinion, many recommendations calculated to give it a preference in our esteem. The crown in this country exercises no independent legislative control—its *reto* power being merely nominal. The real responsibility of executive government will always be vested in the ministers of state, and the choice of these officers will be necessarily dictated by parliamentary majorities, rather than by the sovereign's preference. It matters, therefore, but little, either in council or in action, who may be the individual entrusted with the insignia of royalty. But, inasmuch as the possession of the crown will always constitute an object of human ambition, we think it sound political wisdom to determine that possession by fixed and providential laws, rather than to throw it open to the chances of intrigue, of faction, of dissimulation, and, it may be, of the most inhuman crimes. The history of elective chief magistrates does not go far to commend the principle to our judgment; and the periodical agitation of a whole people to determine upon the occupant of a throne produces far more mischief than it can possibly prevent. We believe that we are not by any means singular in these opinions. The people of Great Britain are perhaps far more chargeable with an idolatrous reverence for the monarchy than with any ulterior designs for its extinction; and were the country polled from end to end to-morrow, we are fully confident that not a single privilege vested in the sovereign, which is not obviously at war with the interests of the nation, would be abolished or curtailed. If complete suffrage would sweep the steps of the throne, it would only be from attachment to the throne itself.

We hold, moreover, that a second chamber of legislation, framed with a special view to retard, if necessary, for a reasonable period, the practical embodiment of a people's expressed views, is re-

quired by sound policy. There cannot be a doubt that nations, as individuals, are liable to epidemic excitements—excitements, which are proportionably short in duration, as they are violent in nature; but which, unchecked by the counterpoise of some interposing deliberative body, might produce mischiefs which subsequent repentance would be too late to remedy. Great political changes require, in order to their safe adoption, some two or three years incessant and serious discussion. Under these circumstances, an assembly composed of men whose interest in, and connexion with, the fixed property of the country would be a guarantee for the prevention of hasty and crude legislation, would seem to be indispensable. But it is evident that the efficiency of this body must mainly spring out of the fixed interests which it represents. Whether the hereditary principle, apart from the iniquitous laws of primogeniture and entail; apart also from all considerations pressed upon us by the fact that wisdom and virtue do not descend by natural sequence from father to son, would be found, in the long run, to answer the end in view, is a matter we are not called upon at the present moment to determine. We can conceive of a peerage far more revolutionary in tendency, than even an assembly of popular representatives; but thus much we think we may affirm, that nothing but a determined, and factious, and persevering obstruction of a nation's will would place the House of Lords in danger, under the reign of complete suffrage principles. As a body, having co-ordinate rights with the people themselves, it would never be endured. As a deliberative assembly, designed to check thoughtless and hasty legislation, we believe it would be tried, and would finally stand or fall upon its approved merits in this respect.

The conclusion, then, at which we arrive, may be thus stated. The principle of democracy, which the advocates of complete suffrage are seeking to establish, is neither in its own nature, nor by a necessity of circumstances, antagonistic of the present forms of the British constitution. Those forms are so far fixed in the affections of the people, that they may be certain of a fair and patient trial. If found to be on the whole expedient for the well-being of the people, they will be retained—if otherwise, they will be abolished. Our own opinion is that, substantially, they will remain unchanged, and that when the supreme power of the state is fairly lodged in the hands of the entire population, these forms will, with the utmost ease, accommodate themselves to the working of the new principle.

SYMPTOMS OF WHIG RESUSCITATION.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL, as leader of the opposition, has issued the following official summons to those members of parliament who come under the designation "liberal":—

"January, 1843.

"Lord John Russell presents his compliments to —, and takes the liberty of informing him that questions of importance affecting the state of the country will be brought forward at the commencement of the session, which opens on Thursday, Feb. 2."

The *Morning Chronicle*, the only metropolitan organ, save the *Globe*, which has faithfully adhered to the administration, had previously sent out the following preparatory notice:—

"The day on which the session begins (Thursday, the 2nd of February) is now close at hand. It is understood that questions of importance affecting the state of the country will be brought forward at the commencement. We have little doubt that an amendment to the address will be moved; and we need hardly observe to liberal members, that absentees on such an occasion will be called to a severe account by their constituents."

The London correspondent of the *Scotsman*, usually well informed of the tactics of the whig party, states that the original intention of moving an amendment on the address is now dropped, and that a notice will be given on the first night of the session, of a motion for a committee of the whole House on the state of the country, on the precedent of similar motions in a critical condition of the nation. The ultimate object of the whig party is thus surmised:—

"The former offer of 8s., as explained by Lord John Russell last session, was an offer on the principle of a fair compromise under the then existing circumstances. It was scornfully, unwisely rejected by the parties interested in the 'protection.' Subsequently new and hostile foreign tariffs have annihilated some of our markets. Public opinion, naturally indignant, demands total repeal. An aristocratic party like the whigs—and no administration can be formed in this country without a powerful section of our aristocracy, or without compromises—has, therefore, in the common-sense view of all reflecting politicians, a critical course to pursue under such circumstances. I usually give you a practical view of party relations and policy. It is a common and growing opinion that when the pressure of the corn-law question comes, whether during this session or next, Sir Robert Peel will retire from office, and leave his opponents to undertake the settlement. Therefore, though the League is right to continue its pressure for 'total and immediate repeal,' its intelligent members and advocates in parliament ought not unreasonably to expect Lord John Russell to declare a second fixed duty of 2s. 3s., or 5s., when he may advise decline such a compromise with his friends; because hereafter, as minister, he may be able to propose and carry a fixed duty to end in extinction after a certain time."

We have not the smallest doubt that the correspondent of the *Scotsman* gives us the right view of the present policy of the two aristocratic parties. It matters little whether Lord John Russell intends to move an amendment to the address, or a committee of the whole House on the state of the country. The end which he has in view is ultimately to serve the aristocracy, to cajole the Anti-corn-law League, and to recover the reins of power. High sounding as may be his professions of patriotism, and deeply interested as he may really imagine himself to be in the welfare of the nation, we have no hesitation in declaring our belief, corroborated as it is by all existing indications, that the settled purpose of Lord John Russell, and his immediate supporters, is to defeat both the middle and the labouring classes, and to stand in the way of their attainment of the ultimate objects they have proposed to themselves. This scion of the house of Bedford, if the above report may be depended upon, lays his plans with a confident expectation that all the labours of the League are at a fitting moment to be rendered available to the faction over which he presides; and that if ever the time should come when a people's demand for commercial reform can no longer be resisted, Sir Robert must give way, and himself must come forward to effect, by compromise, that protection of exclusive interests which it is no longer safe to compass by avowed restriction.

Whatever reasons we may have had, up to the present moment, to doubt the abdication by a landlord House of Commons of the supremacy of their own interests, those reasons are now more than ever driven into our judgment, and fastened there as a nail in a sure place. It is no part of the policy of either faction to repeal the corn laws. It is what they will resist to the last extremity, and their conduct from now until the dissolution of the present House will exhibit a series of evasions, framed with special adaptation, first to excite, and ultimately to defeat, the hopes of the League. We say it with no bitterness of spirit, and we are sure that with us our opinion has not been begotten by our prevailing inclination; but of this we are as confident as we are in the certainty of any moral law by which man is influenced, that the interests of the present aristocracy and the real interests of the country being at variance one with another on the subject of corn-law repeal, nothing sincere in that direction can be expected from either faction; and that Lord John Russell, equally with Sir Robert Peel—the whigs equally with the Tories—will make it an especial aim to frustrate the people, if they can, by direct opposition, so long as direct opposition shall be safe; and when that can no longer be persisted in without imminent danger, by trickery and compromise. Let the Anti-corn-law League look well to it. An alliance with the whigs would destroy their whole power.

THE STRIKE.

ITS HISTORY, CAUSES, AND CONSEQUENCES.

(From a Manchester Correspondent.)

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions contained in these papers.]

XII.

Thursday—Meeting at Ashton—Invasion of Stockport and Rochdale—Bolton, Middleton, &c.—Progress—Hope.

A MEETING was held at Ashton on Thursday morning. It was resolved to march to Stockport; in accordance with an arrangement previously made with the Hyde people, who were to send a body to the same place.

The mills were at work in Stockport on Thursday morning, though there existed a general belief that a visit would be paid during the day by the turn-outs of either Manchester or Ashton. Soon after nine o'clock a body of 6,000 or 7,000 persons arrived in the town from Hyde. This body waited some time for the Ashton men, but, growing impatient, proceeded to fulfil its errand by stopping the mills. The hands were already turned out from nearly all the mills and works when the procession from Ashton arrived. It was much larger than the other, and marched into the town with greater regularity and precision. When all the mill-stopping had been effected, a public meeting was held on Waterloo road. The numbers present at it were very great. At least 25,000 strangers were in Stockport, and these, with the turned-out inhabitants, were either at the meeting, or were dispersed over different parts of the town. John Wright, a chartist, was called to the chair. The meeting was addressed by speakers from Hyde and Ashton, and by some local orators. Many of the speakers declared that they were merely engaged in a "national wages movement," and had no political object in view. The charter was strongly insisted on by others, as an infallible social and political heal-all. Ultimately the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting, that it is the imperative duty of all producers of wealth to cease from labour until we elect a conference, to meet in Manchester on Wednesday the 17th inst., and that we abide by this decision; and that the shopkeepers of Stockport be called upon to support us, the same as is being done in Ashton and Staleybridge."

During the proceedings a horde of hungry fellows, numbering from 3,000 to 4,000, who had been going about in search of something to devour, adjourned to the new Union workhouse on Shaw heath, and having forced an entrance, served out amongst themselves 672 loaves of bread, and a few pounds worth of copper. The bread was torn to pieces by the

hungry multitude with the savage avidity displayed by the famishing lion, who pounces upon unexpected prey. Many of the poor fellows had been without food for thirty hours, and had been marching hither and thither since break of day. Parents were there, rushing together and struggling to get a loaf for their children, who stood longing by. And how ravenously was this plain, though to them delicious, food devoured! The fortunate possessors of a loaf clustered together, and hastily shared it: then, seating themselves on the ground, or retiring to some more quiet spot, eating as they went, with glaring eyes and intent gestures, the poor wretches satisfied the growing hunger which oppressed them. While the banquet was still in progress the police and military arrived; forty persons were taken into custody, and the crowd made to disperse. This was announced at the meeting. An instant determination was expressed to rescue the prisoners. Thousands of men rushed from the meeting to make the attempt, the speakers remonstrating in vain. To prevent a collision, two of the leaders waited upon the authorities, who promised to liberate the prisoners. The advancing body were rushing forward, waving their sticks and uttering loud cries, and the yeomanry were drawn up ready to make a charge, when the announcement that the prisoners were liberated caused the crowd at once to retire. A portion only of the captives were set free; seventeen who had been retained were sent off to prison the same evening, fully committed to the sessions.

In the evening, another large meeting was held on Waterloo road: it was agreed to assemble again "for the despatch of business" at five o'clock on Friday morning. The greater part of the Ashton and Hyde men retired home peaceably; a good number, however, staid all night in Stockport to be ready for the next day's work.

While Stockport was thus turned upside down, a town on the borders of Yorkshire was being similarly convulsed. The Oldham and Royton people appeared in the streets of Rochdale at an early hour in the forenoon. They met with no resistance in stopping the mills. The concourse, by the time it reached the centre of the town, numbered full 15,000. The procession was headed by a large body of women, marching abreast and singing lively songs. Bread was asked for and given at many of the shops, but little violence of language or demeanour was shown. No personal violence was offered, though no soldiers were in the town. The work of the morning completed, a meeting was held on the large moor called Cronkeyshaw; a good many speeches were delivered; parties were despatched to stop the mills at Whitworth, Facet, Hooley Clough, and other places; and the meeting adjourned to seven o'clock in the evening. During the afternoon the bulk of the Oldham men left the town and proceeded homewards. As they went along they stopped a few collieries.

At the appointed hour the adjourned meeting took place on Cronkeyshaw. Ten thousand persons, including at least three thousand women, were there. Howarth, Ashley (both Rochdale men), Mr Thos Livsey the chartist, and others, addressed the assembled host. "Peace, law, and order," was earnestly preached from. The case of the people, the manufacturers, and the common enemy—the aristocracy, was rather fairly handled. The manufacturers were blamed; but the aristocracy, as the causers, were blamed much more. The meeting was adjourned to the following morning at five o'clock, "when the duties of the day would be laid before the people present." A meeting had taken place in the market place at Bolton on Wednesday night, and one of the delegates, appointed at the meeting held on the morning of that day at Ashton, had addressed it. The result was, that a second meeting was got together early on Thursday morning, and a few of the mills were stopped. Little progress, however, was made. Many of the hands returned to their work an hour or two after they had been obliged to leave it; and some of the ringleaders in the turn-out were taken into custody.

In Macclesfield, Todmorden, Leigh, and several other towns, a portion of the hands turned out, on this day, of their own accord. Bury was duly visited, and the men as duly left their work and held open-air meetings. The Middleton people were turned out by the persons collected at a meeting held in the neighbourhood. In Preston, two delegates from Ashton made their appearance, and held a meeting preparatory to a turn-out. Excitement spread over the whole of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire, and—as light travels faster than sound—was the forerunner of the appearance of the general contagion.

The population now, immediately affected by the turn-out, amounted to 700,000 souls.

The colliers' strike, in Lanarkshire continued. The Staffordshire strike continued, and gathered strength from the proceedings in Lancashire. Working men everywhere were deliberating whether to join the movement or not. Plans of operation were talked over in public and in private. The sound of preparation was heard on every side, and the hopes of the people hourly rose. Men who, on Tuesday, would have returned to their work on receiving the smallest concession, or seeing the dawning of hope of speedy change for the better, on Thursday talked of standing out until the charter was obtained—and those who, at the outset, wished to make political justice the object of the struggle, smiled and talked big, and actually began to feel sure that the day of regeneration was at hand—that a glorious triumph at length would crown the general efforts. Talk with the poor, ragged, unemployed operative, whom perhaps you had relieved a week before, and he would tell you that the people were masters—that they would show their honesty by refraining from injuring or insulting any one—that there would soon be work and wages for all—

and soon the means of securing every benefit the people might obtain; the man was happy; he was full of that to which he had long been a stranger—hope. The man who had been “turned out” spoke less confidently, though in a similar strain. The great mass rejoiced in the aspect of affairs, and even the perpetual grumblers amongst them were, for the moment, struck dumb.

OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP.—The following circular has been addressed to liberal members of the House of Commons:—“Lord John Russell presents his compliments to —, and takes the liberty of informing him that questions of importance affecting the state of the country will be brought forward at the commencement of the session, which opens on Thursday, Feb. 2.”

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has invited the chief members of the parliamentary opposition in the House of Commons to a dinner at his residence on the eve before the meeting of parliament.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—On Wednesday a meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce was held, to receive the report of the committee relative to a correspondence which has for some weeks been carried on between the committee of the Chamber and the Premier. This commenced in July and ended only with the year, and occupied several columns of *Thursday's Times*. The currency question is the chief topic, and the Chamber enticed Sir R. Peel into a discussion of considerable length. The correspondence does not admit of a short abridgment; but, leaving the arguments out of view, we gather from the replies of the Premier the following points:—that “the measures introduced by her Majesty's government in the course of the present session, in reference to the manufactures and commerce of the country, may have a beneficial effect in the important district to which these statements refer;” “that the government cannot hold out the expectation, that any measures are within their power which will permanently alter the condition of the working classes;” and that, from the general tenor of the memorial of the Chamber, the leading principle of their measures would be, “either a considerable depreciation of the standard of value, or the exemption of the issuers of promissory notes from the obligation to pay those notes in the coin of the realm,” whereas “in my (Sir R. Peel's) opinion, measures founded on such a basis would afford no relief to the difficulties under which the country labours, but, on the contrary, would greatly aggravate those difficulties; and this being my conviction, I must, in the fearless execution of my duty to the Crown and to the country, decline to adopt them, or to give any sanction or encouragement to them.”

THE NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.—We have authority for stating that Sir Charles Metcalfe, whose long habits of command in India, and whose subsequent experience in the West Indies so amply qualify him for the office, has been appointed governor-general of Canada.—*Times*.

LORD MORPETH ON SLAVERY.—When in America, Lord Morpeth promised to “think of” a request preferred by Mrs Chapman, of Boston, that he would “write a page or two” on the subject of slavery for an anti-slavery publication, called the *Ringling Bell*, of which Mrs C. is the editor. Since his return, however, he has written a letter, which has found its way into the daily journals, declining to write the article, on the ground that it would be improper in him to interfere in any way in the conflict now going in the United States between the friends and foes of slavery. He, however, speaks warmly of the cause in which slavery abolitionists have embarked—

“I have learned,” says his lordship, “to look upon you, and those with whom you are associated, formally or virtually, throughout the wide Union, with a respect and interest scarcely to be inspired for any other cause's sake on the globe. The purpose which has banded you together appears to me to assume the place of the highest dignity, it may be of the greatest difficulty. I know not, in these latter days, of any enterprise which combines so much of the spirit of lofty chivalry with so much of the sobriety of genuine piety—which relies so closely on the logic of the most statistical calculations, and appeals so largely to the impulses of the most fervent humanity—which looks for such fruits on earth, and has such root in heaven.”

The noble lord concludes with a somewhat ambiguous reference to his own future political conduct, and a few words of advice and encouragement to the friends of the slave—

“I feel that henceforth the main portion of my interest, hopes, and aspirations, as to the course of public events in the world around me, must be directed to the onward march of human freedom. In that imposing cause the friends of the slave in the United States of North America appear to me to hold the most forward and critical position. May all your armoury be worthy of the service in which it must be wielded—the gentleness that subdues, the discretion that guides, without keeping back the zeal that never cools, but never inflames. To say all, may you do the work of Heaven in the spirit of Heaven, accompanied by the sympathies, the hopes, and the prayers of the Christian people of all nations; but relying alone on the everlasting arms beneath you, and your own good use of the means intrusted to your disposal.”

Sir Robert Peel has directed a charge for armorial bearings, which the surveyor of taxes made on a worthy gentleman, at Manchester, for using the head of Neptune on a seal, to be withdrawn. Many persons in this county have been charged for armorial bearings on equally slight pretexts by surveyors of taxes.

THE APPROACHING TRIALS FOR RIOT, &c.—The indictment against the 73 persons, chiefly chartists, to be tried at the approaching assizes for being concerned in the late riots, contains nine counts; viz., 1st count, for causing to be gathered together divers unlawful, tumultuous, and riotous assemblies of seditious and evil-disposed persons, in various parts of the realm, and by forcing and compelling divers of her Majesty's peaceable subjects, to desert and depart from their respective employments and work,

and by divers seditious and inflammatory speeches, libels, placards, and other publications, to create alarm, discontent, and confusion, with intent thereby unlawfully to effect and bring about a change in the laws and constitution of this realm, against the peace of our lady the Queen, her crown and dignity. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th counts, merely vary the 1st. The 8th count charges the indicted with having unlawfully assembled and met together in a formidable and menacing manner, with clubs, sticks, and other offensive weapons, to disturb the tranquillity, peace, and good order of the realm, &c. The 9th count is a variation of the preceding one. The indictment was found in Lancaster against 59. The bills against the other chartists were returned by the grand jurors of Staffordshire.

LIGHTS FOR MARINERS.—The mercantile interest are regarding with some anxiety the extension of the lighting of the coast, and especially in connexion with the shocking sacrifice of life occurring off Boulogne and in the neighbourhood of the Goodwin sands. It is understood that application has been made to the Home office on the subject, with the view, if possible, of getting carried out the project of lights at those points which, though in the one case of the temporary failure at the Goodwin fell short of the expectations originally formed, may, it is asserted, if proper perseverance be employed, be yet made efficacious and of service to the general marine of the channel in one of the most dangerous localities.—*Times*.

AMERICAN DEBTS.—The American state stock, on which the payment of interest has been suspended, is stated to amount to about 100,000,000 dollars; of this there are probably held in England, directly or indirectly, about 75,000,000 dollars. Some of the holders are persons of large fortune and great personal influence. The mass are of limited income, without influence or connexion, their sole dependence, in many instances, being on the payment of this suspended interest.

A large number of letters passed through the Falmouth Post office on the arrival of the last overland mail, bearing the Hongkong Post office stamp. The stamp was of an oval form with the royal arms. Around the edge of the stamp were the words “Hongkong Post office.” The stamp was of a red colour and without any date.

A new weekly paper has just been established in the south of Germany, under the title of *Das Zollvereinsblatt* (the customs union journal), with the avowed object of preaching a commercial warfare against England. It is edited by the well-known German-American List.

LAW AND POLICE.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF OVERWORKING AND SABBATH-BREAKING IN A FACTORY.—On Wednesday week, at Bingley (before W. B. Ferrand, Esq., M.P., and William Ellis and F. Greenwood, Esqrs), Messrs Seed and Co., of Addington, cotton spinners, appeared to answer a charge preferred against them by Mr Baker, superintendent of factories, Leeds, for having on December 22nd employed Betty Greenwood on the night of that day; for having employed Ann Brayshaw on the night of the 23rd; for employing Mary Brear on Christmas day; for employing Sarah Smith more than twelve hours on the same day; and for having false entries in their time-book on the 24th, stating they gave up at half-past seven in the evening on the 24th. It was distinctly proved, on inquiry, that Betty Greenwood, aged 17, had worked from Thursday morning at breakfast time, till twelve o'clock at noon; and then went out and returned at four, and worked till twelve at midnight; then came again at breakfast time on Friday morning, and worked till twelve; went out till 7 p.m., and worked all Friday night, all day on Saturday, and the whole of the night until three o'clock on Sunday morning! In the case of Alice Moorville, it was shown that she would have worked the same hours as Betty Greenwood but for indisposition, which compelled her to go home on Saturday morning at six o'clock. It was proved also, by a man named Curtis, that he had a girl working at the mill on the evening of Saturday, but finding she did not come home at twelve o'clock at night, and having three quarters of a mile to walk, he became uneasy, and went to the mill to inquire for his daughter, and asked why she stayed so long, as she had not had any food from four o'clock in the afternoon. He there saw Mr Threlfall, the managing partner, who told him that his daughter was at work, but he might have her if he liked, and he took her away. The magistrates, after hearing the case, said it was the worst factory case they had ever known, and that it was made still worse from the fact of the master (Mr T.) having sent his overlooker away at eight o'clock on Saturday evening, and being his own overlooker till three o'clock on Sunday morning; and they should not be doing their duty to the public, if they did not convict him in six full penalties of £20 each, and £5 for working on Christmas day; making altogether a fine of one hundred and twenty five pounds.

CONVICTION OF A CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. Jonathan Ackroyd, who formerly officiated as a minister of the church of England at Christ church, Skircoats, near Halifax, has just been indicted for misdemeanour at the Salford hundred sessions, in having, on the 16th of December last, at Bury, obtained a sovereign from Mr Joshua Knowles, by falsely pretending that he was then the incumbent of that church, and that he was collecting money to discharge a debt owing on mortgage of the said church. The jury found the defendant guilty. The learned chairman characterised the offence as one of a very serious nature, expressed his regret at seeing a clergyman in such a disgraceful position, and sentenced him to eighteen

months imprisonment and hard labour in Lancaster castle.

THE NEW POOR LAW.—On Wednesday, at Worship street, towards the close of the day, the office became crowded with a vast number of the most wretched and emaciated class of persons, whose haggard looks and ragged condition clearly proved “sharp misery had worn them to the bone.” About twenty-four of these half-starved individuals had arranged themselves in regular order round the body of the court, and exhibited a spectacle before which humanity should shudder. Mr Broughton requested two of these unfortunates to step forward from the main body, and state the grievances of which they all complained. Two men, who gave their names as John Mayo and Thomas Grey, then approached the bar, and in sorrowing accents stated that they had been employed at work in the stone yard of Shoreditch workhouse up to Tuesday. On going, however, that morning (Wednesday) to resume their toilsome occupation, they were told that they could not get any more work, as there were no more stones to be broken. They then asked for some relief, as they were literally starving; but they were bluntly refused that also. Mr Coste, the relieving officer of Shoreditch workhouse, said that he had been in the habit of giving work in the stone yard to these paupers for generally five days in the week; adding, by way of parenthesis, that in Hackney they only gave them employment for three days in the week. The stones, however, were all now exhausted, and he had no means of employing the people further. He told some of these paupers that if they came that night, or the next day (Thursday), he would give them some bread. Mr Broughton asked what was the reason of this want of employment, and where the stones came from? Mr Coste said that they were in the habit of importing stones from Guernsey. They had now 1,000 tons ordered, which they soon expected, but they might still be delayed many days. Mr Broughton said that he was very sorry for the condition of these poor people; but the law had left these matters entirely in the hands of the guardians of the poor, and he therefore could not interfere. Some of them, it appeared, would be relieved that night at the workhouse. Mr Coste said he would certainly give some of them food that night; the rest could come again, when he would see what he could do. The poor creatures then left the court.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS' COURT.—Francis Jeffries Twiner, an unopposed insolvent, applied to be discharged. The insolvent had, for a short period, been a clerk in the post office, at £75 a year. He had previously expended a good deal of money and contracted debts. He was a single man. The Chief Commissioner asked the insolvent how he came to contract the debts? Mr Cooke: He had the misfortune to have £12,000 left him. Chief Commissioner: When did that calamity happen? Mr Cooke said in 1836 the insolvent received £6,000, and subsequently the remainder. The Chief Commissioner went over the schedule, remarking that there was an extravagant expenditure. Mr Cooke said, out of seventy-seven creditors sixty had taken a composition. It appeared that the insolvent had, for some time past, been supported by his friends. The Chief Commissioner said it was a lamentable exhibition of extravagance. The creditors did not think it worth while to oppose. The insolvent was discharged.

EMBEZZLEMENT.—The proceedings at the Mansion house give the particulars of a case of embezzlement committed by two young men, named Shipley and Devis, in the banking house of Messrs Williams, Deacon, and Co. The amount Shipley is charged with being deficient is stated at £402 7s. 6d., and Devis is said to be deficient £428 5s. 6d.; having accommodated Shipley with some of the money over which he had a temporary control. Devis had to collect £3817 4s. 10d. on that day, whereof he accounted only for £3617 4s. 10d., so that he was £200 short, and that £200 he covered by a false entry. They are committed.

CURIOUS SYSTEM OF PLENDER.—James Williams, who was stated to be one of a formidable gang of fellows who have induced the shopmen of various tradesmen to rob their employers, and by whom the licensed victuallers of the metropolis have sustained severe losses, was charged with having persuaded Robert Lincoln, the barman to Mr Davis, of the Blue Post, Berwick street, to plunder his master. About two months ago, Lincoln, who is about 17 years of age, was asked by the prisoner “if he had worked any money for himself,” to which the lad, who understood by the observation that taking money out of the till was implied, answered in the negative, and added that he did not want. Prisoner said he must be a great fool, then, for he used to work (carry away) £3 per week out of Mr Davis's house, and it might be easily done again. Prisoner then gave Lincoln his address and went away, and Lincoln, on his return home, told his master what had occurred. Information was given to the police, and on Saturday Lincoln was sent to the address given by the prisoner, and left a note, stating that he would meet him on the following day in Compton street. On the Saturday evening prisoner came into the house, and observing Lincoln alone, said, “On to it now,” to which the lad replied, he could not then, as his master had just cleared the till. On the following day Lincoln met the prisoner, and walked down Fleet street with him, and prisoner then told him how he was to rob his master so as to escape detection. “I shall come in three or four times a night,” said the prisoner, “and put down a shilling for a quartern of gin, or a glass of beer. You must pretend to put it in the till, and in so doing take out three or four more; place them between the halfpence, and give them to me in the change.” Lincoln asked him how he should do it if his master

was in the bar, when prisoner observed, "Oh, this way; if it's all right, put your hand up to your hair, or rub your elbow; if it is not, put out one finger, as if pointing." Prisoner, after having showed him how to place the silver between the halfpence, assured him that if he could not come often enough his wife should, and left him. On the Sunday evening prisoner came to the house, and called for a quartern of gin, and put down a shilling. Lincoln, who had been instructed how to act, gave him the change, and two shillings between the halfpence. Prisoner went out, and shortly returned again, and had another shilling given him in some change. A third visit was made, when Lincoln put out his finger, and the visitor disappeared. The prisoner's wife came, Lincoln gave the signal, and she understood it, and prisoner then again made his appearance. On Monday ten marked shillings were placed in the till, and on prisoner paying his visit, four of them were given to him in the change, and on his gaining the street, Inspector Beresford, who had watched him at the meeting with Lincoln, and on every visit, suddenly laid hold of his hands, and took the four marked shillings from him. The prisoner, who made no defence, was committed.

IRELAND.

CONFESSIONS OF A MONOPOLIST.—A meeting of the gentlemen, landowners, farmers, shopkeepers, tradesmen, and labourers of the baronies of Condons and Clongibbons, was held at the Court house, Fermoy, on Saturday, "to petition parliament on the present depressed state of agricultural produce, caused by the ruinous effects of the new tariff and corn laws." The meeting was called by advertisement, signed by Lord Mountcashel, and his lordship took the chair. The Chairman, after alluding to the depressed state of the agricultural interest, and the great distress consequent upon it, made the following plain statement:—

"Some persons would say, 'Oh, let the landlord reduce his rents, and all will be well;' but it is much easier for them to say, 'Let them reduce the rents,' than for the landlord to do it. Many of them certainly receive several thousands a year; but the question is, Does it belong to those who receive it? Was it not notorious that almost all the landlords had their grounds mortgaged? and he himself knew many in the neighbourhood who were so circumstanced; and if they did not pay the interest of that, and sometimes the principal too, they would be pressed to do so by the strong arm of the law, or else have their lands brought to the hammer, and their estates sold. The landlords were consequently not able to reduce their rents, or to act with that kindly and friendly feeling which they wished towards their tenants. That being the case, it was useless and idle for the manufacturers of England to talk about their reducing their rents to that extent. Some landlords were so deeply in debt that they could scarcely exist; and he would now ask them what was the cause of the reduction of prices. They all remembered when the prices were high, that every man was comfortable; the landlord, the farmer, and the labourer were well off. But those times changed, and when the prices came down by one-half, what could the landlords do?"

He then pointed out the injurious effects of the late alterations of the tariff and corn laws, and thought it was high time, when the Manchester League were using such exertions to reduce the price of their produce, to meet, confer, and unite together to protect themselves from those threatening evils. Sundry of the sentiments expressed by the noble chairman were interspersed with energetic and appropriate exclamations, on the part of his audience, of "Reduce the rents!" "Let the landlords reduce their rents!" Lord Mountcashel adhered unflinchingly to his own text, without noticing the unwelcome comments of his hearers. E. B. Roche, Esq., M.P., made a few observations, in which he stated that it was not his belief that the distress was to be attributed to the corn laws and tariff. Mr Montgomery Martin came to the rescue of the noble chairman, and, after a real monopolist speech, proposed a resolution affirming that not only landlords and farmers, but the interests of all persons connected with agriculture, were threatened with immediate ruin. More decided symptoms of opposition, however, began to manifest themselves, which were commenced by Dr Verling, who, amid great cheering, averred that the true way to remedy the distress was for the landlords to take twenty-five per cent off their rents.

The Chairman replied that the food the people principally used was potatoes, and they were cheap this year [cries of "We love bread best!"]

A farmer: Let the land be given for 10s. an acre, my lord, and then we will have meat [hear].

The Chairman did not think such an attack should be made on him [no, no].

Mr Mackey said that he had had several conversations with the farmers in his neighbourhood, who, in fact, from the pressure of the times, were not able to pay their September rent, and he had heard them ask each other how they were to pay their county cess, the monstrous tithe rent charge, and poor rates, and the March rent, which was staring them in the face, when they were not able to pay the September rent [hear, hear]? He would suggest to the landlords that they should come forward and do something for them; otherwise the country would be pauperised, and more poor-houses should be built [great cheers].

Dr Verling moved as an amendment, "That it is our opinion that the late alteration in the corn law and tariff have not had a sufficient trial to ascertain their proper effect on the country" [cheers].

Mr William O'Connell seconded the amendment.

The close of the proceedings is too rich to bear curtailment.

Mr Martin then rose to address the meeting, but the uproar was so great, we could catch but a few words of what he said. He contended that the Canadas should not be put on a footing with foreign countries.

The Chairman then directed that those who were for the amendment should hold up their hands, upon which a large majority of the meeting did so.

Mr Allen then considered that the amendment was carried [hear, hear].

The Chairman believed half of them did not understand what they were voting for, and therefore Dr O'Neil would explain it to them [great uproar]. In his opinion the present attempt was a trick to upset their proceedings.

Dr O'Neil then said that those who were for the present price should vote for the amendment, but those who were for high prices should vote against it. He therefore called on those who were for the amendment to go to the left of the Chairman, and those against it to the right.

A Voice: We want free trade [cheers].

Mr Roche inquired where those were to go who did not wish to vote, as he was of that number?

The Chairman replied that there was a spacious gallery adjacent, into which they could go.

A division here took place, and nothing could equal the uproar and confusion.

Silence having been obtained,

Mr Allen contended that the amendment had been carried.

The Chairman said he could not decide whether it was or not, as several were made to go to the left hand side against their wish [great uproar]. He was not prepared for this uproar, and in consequence of it, he could not decide the question, and would adjourn the meeting until that day fortnight [great uproar].

THE FALL IN RENTS.—A tenant on the Lismore estates announces, in a letter to the editor of the *Tipperary Free Press*, that his lordship has, "unsolicited, given to his numerous tenantry in the counties of Cork, Limerick, and Tipperary, an abatement of 20 per cent. off their rents." And the writer adds, that although this may appear to some trifling, yet when it is considered that on the whole it amounts to nearly £5000 a-year, "it must be considered a magnificent abatement." The *Derry Standard* also states, "on unquestionable authority," that Mr Conolly Gage, justice of the peace, "has very seasonably remitted 25 per cent. of the last year's rents to his Macgilligan tenantry."

LOSS OF EIGHTY-THREE LIVES.—In the postscript of our last number we gave a few brief particulars of this awful calamity at Newcastle, in the county of Down. The following details are supplied from the *Newry Telegraph*:—

"Grievous intelligence has reached us from the Morne coast. At Annalong, a little fishing village contiguous to Kilkceel, and at Newcastle, the well-known beautiful watering place, seventy-four human beings have been hurled, as it were in a moment, into eternity; and at least twenty-six families have been left utterly destitute, mourning the loss of husbands, fathers, and sons! From Annalong we have received the following particulars:—

"On Friday forenoon, several boats, said to contain between one and two hundred persons, proceeded to the fishing station, a few miles from land. Suddenly, and before preparation for the storm could be made, a tremendous gale from the west-north-west was upon them. A few of the boats withstood the shock. The remainder were instantly swamped or overturned; and, although many were rescued by the almost superhuman exertions of their gallant companions, of those on board the capsize boats no fewer than seventeen perished! The persons on the shore, observing the perilous situation of their friends and acquaintances on the deep, manned a boat and hastened to attempt a rescue. They had scarcely reached the scene of the calamity, when their boat also went down, and every individual on board perished!"

"Of the persons drowned, ten were married men, all (we believe) with families. Others were the only or main support of widowed mothers. In one or two instances, large families have been deprived of the brother on whose earnings they depended for maintenance. The neighbourhood is one scene of misery. In almost every cottage there is lamentation for the loss of one dear to its inmates. There has been no such visitation there since the 10th of January, 1814, when forty fishermen were lost at Annalong; on which occasion the late Captain Chesney distinguished himself by saving the lives of many, at the imminent risk of his own."

"At Newcastle the loss of life had been greater than at Annalong. There forty-seven fishermen perished, many of them with families, and several with widowed mothers or aunts, entirely depending for support on those who have been so suddenly called away."

DREADFUL LOSS OF LIFE OFF THE DONEGAL COAST.—The following is the disastrous intelligence from Narin:—Last Friday morning, as the boats belonging to the Rosses herring fishery, were engaged in hauling their nets on the north side of Arran, a violent gale of wind suddenly sprung up from the north, and in a very short space of time it increased to a perfect hurricane. Every effort was made by the boatmen to reach the shore, but, alas! twelve poor fellows were doomed to a premature and watery grave; ten of whom formed the crew of one of Mr F. Forster's large fishing yawl—the other two men were lost out of separate boats. A few days previous to this lamentable occurrence, as a boat was returning from Burton Port to Arran, she was capsized, and six persons out of nine were unfortunately drowned. One of the survivors died the following morning from the effects of the bruises he received on the rocks while struggling to gain the shore. Twenty-seven trains of nets, averaging seven each—in all about 190 nets, besides anchors, ropes, &c., have been lost by the Portnoo and Ballyhillagh fishermen on the morning of the 4th instant.

Near Tubberkrum the loss of life was still more fearful. "I hoped to be able to send you for next publication a good account of our herring fishery; but, alas! instead of a pleasing one, I am sorry to tell you that a boat's crew, consisting of ten men, were all swallowed up in the deep by a heavy sea upsetting their boat. Many other boats were in great danger, but fortunately escaped with the greatest difficulty. The night previous to the loss, the boats all went out, and left their nets shot till next morning, when all went out in hopes of getting plenty of fish; but, melancholy to relate, while at the fishing ground at Aroonmore, a storm arose, and all hands strove to gain the shore; one fine young man was swept off his oar by a huge wave, and was never seen more. Another melancholy accident happened a few days previous to the loss above-mentioned. A boat from Aroonmore was returning home, when a storm arose, which upset the boat, and six brave men were thrown out, three of whom escaped a watery grave. I am sorry to have to acquaint you of the loss of so many lives, many of whom have left large families to lament their loss."

SCOTLAND.

The proceedings of the deputation from the Anticorn-law League during the past week have been remarkably energetic and effective. On Saturday evening the deputies met the good people of Leith, and furnished an occasion for Mr Rutherford, which we are happy to say he took advantage of, to set the public right regarding his opinions on the great

question of the day. Mr Cobden was prevented by indisposition from attending the Leith meeting, but his able co-adjutors did enough to stimulate the minds of their audience to renewed zeal in the cause of commercial freedom in which they are, or ought to be, fully as deeply interested as any community in Scotland. On Monday night Kirkcaldy was the scene of another successful effort. Dumfermline, Dundee, Stirling, Glasgow once more, and Hawick have all been roused by the earnest appeals of the distinguished English apostles of free trade.—*Edinburgh Chronicle*.

The amount of subscription to the League fund in the city of Edinburgh amounts to more than £900, and is expected to reach £1,000. At Glasgow, between £1,400 and £1,500 has been raised.

A MINISTER OF THE CROWN REFUSING TO OBEY THE LAW.—The Duke of Buccleuch has positively refused to pay his poors' rates for the parish of Hawick, in which he is the most extensive proprietor.—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle*.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.—The number of unemployed in Glasgow is stated by the *Saturday Post* to amount to 2,860 persons altogether destitute of the means of subsistence. Notwithstanding the resolution of the relief committee of Paisley to cut off the poor Irish inhabitants who have not resided ten years in the town, the number on the relief list still remains above 11,000. It is gratifying to find that some improvement took place in the trade of the town during the last week. The numbers on the Greenock relief list last week were no less than 5,639 persons.

The Greenock magistrates and relief committee have published a report, which shows that in that town there is no improvement whatever, but on the contrary business is weekly getting worse. The voluntary assessment has also been a failure, only about one half of the amount having been paid, and that for the most part on account of the inability of the rate-payers.

The *Glasgow Post* says, in Glasgow and Greenock, as well as Paisley, there are thousands of able-bodied men and women who have no legal means of subsistence at their command, and in all these three principal towns in the west of Scotland public begging by the able and industrious inhabitants has had to be generally resorted to, and is openly and avowedly carried on under the direct cognizance of the local authorities.

THE COLLIERIES IN LANARKSHIRE.—It is pretty generally understood that another strike in the iron mining districts in this neighbourhood is about to take place; and, in consequence, a meeting of the county has been convened for the 30th, to consider on the establishment of a rural police for the future; but in particular during the approaching turn-out. The houses of certain landed proprietors have been robbed lately, and a few farmers have been troubled with thievish visitors. This will be urged as an additional reason why the county must accept the rurals, praise the coal masters, give a good price for their fuel, shoot the potato stealers, and be thankful. *Glasgow Post*.

Miscellaneous.

THE LATE HURRICANE.

Every day brings further accounts of the fearful disasters committed along our coasts by the late destructive hurricane.

SUNDERLAND.—On the Friday morning of the gale two vessels went ashore on the Black Middens, near the entrance of the Tyne, and two at Hendon, near Sunderland. Three persons on board one of the former perished, and three seamen belonging to one of the latter are missing, fears being entertained that they have also met a watery grave. The two vessels on shore on the Black Middens were the *Isabella*, Captain Eladen, of Sunderland, and the *Percy*, Captain Hair, both light colliers, and were driven on to the rocky shore whilst attempting to take Shields bar at low water. The *Isabella* got on the rocks near the battery, and immediately on her critical situation being discerned by the coast guard, a rope was thrown by means of Dennett's rockets, and this being made fast to the vessel, the crew were all safely landed by it; soon afterwards she went entirely to pieces. The *Percy* came upon the rocks under the lighthouse at the Castle yard, a most difficult situation to reach. After considerable time had necessarily elapsed in fruitless efforts, a communication was effected between the shore and the vessel. The bottom of the vessel having been broken on the rocks, she rapidly filled with water, and the greatest efforts were made to rescue the crew from the yawning gulph beneath them. A rope was thrown to the deck, which having been made fast, the master, the cook, and his son, put themselves in "the sling," as it is technically termed. The storm was then raging with fearful violence, and from the heaving of the vessel to which the rope was attached, or from their being fatigued and benumbed with cold, they all fell out of the sling, and were drowned; the two latter were seen clinging to the rope with great tenacity for a few minutes, and they then went down in the sight of their dearest relatives and friends. The fate of Mr Hare, the captain, also excited the most melancholy feelings. He struggled for nearly twenty minutes amidst the raging surf, catching at one time the rope with his feet, and making desperate efforts (but in vain) to reach the shore, and the friends who were waiting with anxious hearts to receive him. Dennett's apparatus being thus found ineffective, the life-boat was speedily got out and manned by a gallant crew, who, after battling the billows for some time, reached the wreck and rescued the comrades of the men who had perished. Mr Hair's body was washed ashore in the

afternoon, and in his pockets were found the ship's papers, £18, his watch, and other articles which he had collected together to preserve. His body was removed on a stretcher to the bath-house at Tyne-mouth, and on the following day (Saturday) at three o'clock in the afternoon a coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict returned in accordance with the melancholy facts. The unfortunate man has left a widow and three children to deplore their loss. Thousands of persons were drawn to the beach, and the sacrifice of three British tars, within sight of their homes, naturally excited the most intense sorrow.

The *Isabella Sarah*, a Newcastle and London trader, and the *Ceneus* of Sunderland were also wrecked on the rocks at Hendon, but their crews were saved with the exception of two men and a boy from the latter.

LEITH.—A sloop of about 50 tons, called the *Janet* of Montrose, in making a passage through the Forth, was overtaken by the storm, which almost immediately shivered her sails into numberless pieces, and afterwards drove her on a rock called Micky stone, where she in the course of a few hours went to pieces, and every soul on board met with a watery grave. Some of the unfortunate seamen were married men, and have left large families to deplore their loss. The sloop was laden with a valuable cargo of wheat, which, with the vessel, was insured.

LOSS OF AN EAST INDIAMAN OFF BOULOGNE.—Only six weeks have elapsed since the attention of the country was painfully excited by the loss of the ship *Reliance*, off Boulogne, when nearly all the passengers and crew were lost. Another East Indiaman has now to be added to the melancholy list of wrecks on that ill-fated coast. The *Conqueror*, a fine vessel of 800 tons, belonging to Mr Richard Green, of the firm of Wigram and Green, bound from Calcutta to London, and commanded by Captain Duggan, after beating about in the channel during the heavy gale on Friday night, was driven on shore off Lorel, a small town on the French coast, only six miles distant from Merlemont (where the *Reliance* struck), at about half-past ten o'clock, p. m., and almost immediately went to pieces; every soul on board being lost, with the exception of a boy named Henry Abchurch, one of the cuddy servants. The crew consisted of about forty-five seamen, exclusive of officers; and the vessel had no less than eighteen passengers on board, including Mrs Thompson, the wife of an East Indian captain, and Mrs Jenkins, both of whom were accompanied by a family of four children, and three officers of the united services. The ship was freighted with a valuable cargo of general merchandise; and it is supposed that she must have suffered severely from the late hurricanes, and became unmanageable as she neared the channel. No authentic statement of the circumstances have yet been received from the poor boy who is the only one saved. The *Conqueror* was built at Newcastle, and purchased only last year by Mr Green. Captain Duggan was an experienced officer, formerly in the Company's service, and had made several voyages to India. The first officer's name is Mr Harvey. The following is a correct list of the passengers:—Mrs Thompson and four children, Mrs J. Jenkins and four children, Mrs Major Johnstone, Miss Turton, Major Johnstone, Mr Marshall, Lieutenant Marshall, Captain Milner, Master Blake, and Master Reeves. About the same period a Swedish vessel was wrecked near the spot, and all hands perished; as also an English fruit vessel, with the whole of her crew. Three other vessels were also wrecked, and the crew of one of them drowned. Mr Green's agents give a few further particulars of this sad event in a letter dated Boulogne, 18th January. "Since writing you yesterday I have had a long conversation with Abchurch, and from him I learn that Captain Duggan made the Lizard light on Monday night, and on Tuesday fell in with an English fishing boat, and took one man from her on board to give any information required, the boat being engaged to land the passengers, the wind increasing to a terrific gale. The ship was occasionally scudding and lying to until Friday night. Abchurch says that for nearly three days the hatches could not be taken off, owing to the heavy seas breaking over; and that after being two days without water, they were obliged to break through the bulkhead in the hold to get at it; cooking for passengers or crew was not attempted. It appears that neither the fisherman nor Captain Duggan knew what part of the French coast they were on until the lights of Lornel were seen, and were endeavouring to wear off shore when the ship struck."

LOSS OF ANOTHER EAST INDIAMAN.—On Wednesday information was received in the city that another East India trader had been added to the melancholy catalogue of losses occasioned by the late violent gales. The vessel was named the *Jessie Logan*, the property of Mr Logan, a merchant at Liverpool, from which port she traded to and from Calcutta. She was of 850 tons burden, and commanded by Captain Major. On Monday last the vessel was on her homeward voyage, beating up channel, and apparently making for Tintagell or Bude Bay, on the Cornish coast, for which the north-west wind would have been favourable but for its extreme violence. At length she became unmanageable, and was driven aground off Boscastle, formerly Bottercan castle, about seventeen miles from Launceston. Blue lights and other signals of distress were made, but such was the fury of the gale and the violence of the surf, that none would venture to her assistance, and at length she drifted on the rocks, and soon became a total wreck. She had evidently been abandoned by the crew and passengers, but from the long-boat having been washed on shore, it is feared they have all perished, as up to

the time of writing this account, no information had been obtained respecting them; and from the fact of the *Jessie Logan* not being a London trader, no account of the number of her crew or passengers could be procured. She was a North American built vessel, termed, in commercial parlance, a *Quebecker*; her cargo, consisting of rum, sugar, spices, and general East India produce, was hourly being washed ashore. The wreck will, it is stated, affect Lloyd's and the insurance offices to the extent of about £10,000.

TOTAL LOSS OF THE SHIP ENGLAND, OFF OSTEND.—The Belgian steamer brought over from Ostend Captain Lewis of the ship *England*, and the chief mate and ship's cook, who brought intelligence of the total loss of the above vessel. Her crew consisted of Captain Lewis and sixteen persons, all of whom were providentially preserved. On the 7th inst., Monday, she left the river Thames for Sierra Leone, on the coast of Africa, with about 200 tons of ballast on board, and arrived safe in the Downs on the following Thursday. They proceeded on the passage on the same evening, having fair weather, the wind blowing a fine breeze from the east. However, at about nine o'clock on Friday morning, when the ship had arrived between Fairsley and Beachey Head, it commenced blowing a heavy gale, which afterwards increased to one of the severest hurricanes ever experienced by the oldest seaman on board. During this day the ship laboured very hard, and by her continually pitching, shifted her cargo of ballast, so much so that by daybreak she was completely upon her beam ends and making a considerable quantity of water. Her situation now becoming exceedingly perilous, being wholly unmanageable, the ensign of distress was hoisted half-mast high, in the hope that some vessel might bear down to their assistance. On Sunday morning a Dutch pilot boat fortunately hove in sight. In the interval the vessel had been getting worse and worse, the crew suffering the utmost privations from cold and exhaustion. During Friday they made several attempts to work at the pumps, but the storm still continuing with unabated violence, they could not do so, although several were lashed to the handles. Friday night and Saturday passed without any further success, and they remained lashed to the rigging until late on Saturday night, when the weather became somewhat fine, which enabled them to free themselves from the quarters where they had been tied nearly eight-and-forty hours. Such was the situation of the ship then that it was impossible to work at the pumps or even to launch the long boat, her gunwale, on one side, being completely under water. The mainmast was cut away, but produced no favourable effect, but just as they commenced constructing the raft, to leave the sinking vessel, the pilot boat before alluded to, to their great delight, hove down towards them, and succeeded in taking them safely off the wreck. The crew reached Flushing in safety. The vessel was totally uninsured.

ANOTHER VESSEL WRECKED NEAR BOSCASTLE—ALL HANDS LOST.—Soon after the *Jessie Logan* drove on the rocks, at the creek, near Boscastle, on the Cornwall coast, and became a wreck, another vessel, called the *Elizabeth Aletta*, commanded by Mr Bakker, was driven upon the sands at Cruckington haven, situate six miles north east of Boscastle harbour, where in the course of one hour she was totally lost, and all on board perished. A party of the coast guard service witnessed the vessel coming ashore, and saw the poor creatures take to the rigging, where they remained but a short period, for upon the vessel striking the sands, her masts were started out of their places and fell overboard, carrying with them the unfortunate crew. None of them were seen alive afterwards. There were supposed to be eleven seamen besides the master. One body has been picked up, and two more have been seen, but it was impossible to get at them. On Tuesday the wreck was sold for £93.

LOSS OF THE AMERICAN SHIP SAMARANG.—On Friday, intelligence was received of the loss of this fine ship (reported to be 600 tons burden), which occurred near the Goodwin Sands, during the tempest on that night. The ship was laden with a cargo of turpentine, oil, and other goods, and arrived in the Downs from Quebec on Friday morning, and was progressing to her destination (Hull) when overtaken by the storm. The vessel was driven on the "Brake" shoal, near the Goodwin Sands. The mainmast and mizenmast were cut away, and at length by hoisting the jib and slipping the cable, the vessel drove over the shoal. Her rudder was, however, lost, and the water gained rapidly in spite of the exertions of the crew. Their situation now became perilous, for all knew that the ship could not keep above water an hour longer. Many of them had fallen on their knees, and given themselves up as lost, when, at about dusk, a boat was observed bearing down to their assistance. She proved to be the Duke of York cutter, belonging to Ramsgate, manned by eight Dealmen, who, perceiving the sad condition of the ship from shore, had in a most praiseworthy manner pushed off to the rescue of those on board. Upon approaching the *Samarang* it struck against the ship's boat, and stove a hole in her side; however, they managed to stop it up, and took off the wreck Mr Bearse and the whole of his crew, amounting to 21 seamen. The storm at the time was raging furiously, the wind blowing fiercely off the land; however, after great exertion, they succeeded in reaching Broadstairs in safety, though much exhausted from exposure.

We regret to record, in addition to those detailed above, the particulars of the loss of the undermentioned vessels, within a few miles from the spot where the unfortunate *Jessie Logan* was wrecked. At Boscastle, another vessel named the *Sarah*, a brig

belonging to Teignmouth, commanded by Mr Dawson, laden with a general cargo, was totally lost on the shore near Bossinary haven. The crew, consisting of master, and seven seamen, saved. During the same night three vessels were totally lost, with their crews (amounting in the whole to 26 persons), within a few miles of the entrance to the harbour at Barmouth. They proved to be the schooner *Mary* and *Eliza*, from Pwllheli to Lymington; the brig *Edwin*, from Chester; and another, the name of which is at present unknown. The sloop *Phoebe*, 123 tons burden, belonging to Cardigan, foundered about four o'clock on Friday morning, within three miles of Aberdovy. All hands, we regret to say, perished with the vessel. A large brig, laden with hides, nuts, &c., was wrecked about two hours afterwards, on a dreadful pile of sunken rocks, about six miles northward of Aberdovy. Unhappily, the crew of the ill-fated vessel met with a similar fate. Two vessels, one the *Peterhead Packet*, belonging to Leith, and the other a schooner, called the *Cleveland*, Capt. Anderson, bound to Arbroath, from Antwerp, were lost during the storm on Friday morning, about eight miles westward of St Abb's Head.

THE CREW OF THE JESSIE LOGAN.—The *LYNX*, which arrived at Cork on the 18th instant, from Messina, had on board the crew of the *Jessie Logan*, from Calcutta to Liverpool, which left the former port on the fourth of September. She was struck by a heavy sea on the 13th instant, which carried away poop, stove in her stern, and swept decks, and was abandoned on the 15th instant, in lat. 51, lon. 5, having at that time 13 feet of water in her hold.—*Standard*.

THE ILLUSTRATED PERIODICALS.—An able and excellent effort of this kind has been made by the projectors of the *Illustrated London News*—a weekly periodical devoted to the events of the day, in connexion with matters of more permanent interest, and all "illustrated" with engravings by the first artists of the age. The crowning achievement of the proprietors is the production of a magnificent view of London, taken from the summit of the York column, by means of the daguerreotype process, and therefore of necessity a faithful representation, Nature herself being (if we may so speak) the artist. The view, when taken, was transferred to a large piece (or rather pieces) of box-wood (consisting of sixty blocks), and engraved by nineteen eminent artists. Owing to certain difficulties (not readily explainable to an uninitiated reader), the enormous block could not well be employed in printing the views intended for our contemporary's subscribers. Stereotyping was therefore resorted to, and the plates thus obtained were made use of in supplying the requisite number of impressions. The result is a print of singular beauty, exhibiting the metropolis of the empire from two points of view—viz., London to the north and London to the south of the Duke of York's monument. The periodical by which this great work has been accomplished is published at a moderate price, and has our best wishes for its success. Of the same class, but devoted more especially to science, the fine arts, and literature, is the *Illustrated Polytechnic Review*, which commenced with the present year. The publisher is Mr Limbird—whose *Mirror* led the way in the march of "cheap periodicals," well printed and illustrated with engravings. To Mr Limbird the gratitude of his country is due, much more than to many men whose memory is perpetuated by sculptured marble and towering columns; and although the state, in its collective capacity, may not recognise his title to some national reward, we hope that the people will encourage, as they deserve, his honourable endeavours for their recreation and improvement.—*Gateshead Observer*.

LLOYD'S.—"Lloyd's" is a term of very common use in commercial language, but at the same time one with which few people are acquainted. The following notice respecting it is to be found in Waterston's *Cyclopaedia of Commerce*:—"Lloyd's, the name of a subscription coffee-house in London, celebrated on account of its being the office of the society of underwriters. Few or none of the commercial institutions of Britain have excited in a higher degree the admiration of intelligent foreigners. 'The establishment of insurances at Lloyd's,' says Dupin, 'has rendered signal services both to the commerce of the British empire and to that of other states. The society has agents in most of the principal ports of all the parts of the world; makes public the events, both commercial and maritime, which it learns through their means: these accounts are received by the public with a confidence which nothing for more than a century has tended to destroy.' 'At Lloyd's,' says Von Raumer, 'close to the dial which tells the hour, is one still more interesting here, which tells the direction of the wind, and is connected with the weathercock on the roof. Intelligence of the arrivals and departures of ships—of the existence and fate of vessels in all parts of the world—reports from consuls and commissioners resident in every foreign town—newspapers and gazettes from every country are here to be found, arranged in such perfect and convenient order, that the entire actual state of the commercial world may be seen in a few minutes, and any of the countless threads that converge to this centre may be followed out with more or less minuteness. The whole earth, or the whole commercial machinery of the earth, appeared to me to be placed in the hands of the directors of Lloyd's coffee-house."

HOME.—Keep your store of smiles and your kindest feelings for home; give to the world only those which are to spare.—*Prism of Thought*.

AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH.—On Sunday last, Mr Clarke, a Wesleyan local minister, was preaching in the chapel belonging to that denomination at Catcott, a village a few miles from Bridgewater, and near the close of his sermon was speaking of the uncertainty of life, and that the preacher might never be permitted to leave the pulpit alive, concluding his discourse by reciting some exquisite lines on death; after which, in attempting to give out a notice of a meeting, his voice faltered, and he suddenly fell back in the pulpit. A great excitement reigned throughout the congregation, and immediately some persons entered the pulpit to afford him assistance, when they found him lying senseless against the seat. He was immediately conveyed to a neighbouring house, and every attention paid to him, but he never spoke afterwards, and about eleven o'clock the same evening, he expired without a groan. The deceased was a young man of considerable talent.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—A most melancholy accident, attended with loss of life, occurred on Monday last at Palling next the Sea. A piece of wood, apparently of some value, was seen floating near the shore by some men who were on the beach. A boat was instantly got ready, and eleven of the most able men went off. The sea was at this time rather boisterous, but was not considered dangerous. The unfortunate men had, however, only just got through the breakers when the boat upset, and they were all plunged into the water. They were seen by several persons near the spot; still it was some time before a boat could be got off to their assistance, and only four out of the eleven could be saved. These, by grasping the oars firmly, succeeded in keeping their heads above the water for almost half an hour. They were nearly exhausted, but on getting ashore soon recovered. The bodies of five of the unfortunate men have since been found, and the county coroner was sent for to investigate the affair. It had been reported that there was some dispute with the men when in the boat; this, however, was not the case, as it was clearly proved that the sad affair was purely accidental. Several of the men have left wives and families.—*Norwich Mercury.*

PAID REPRESENTATIVES.—It appears that the custom of boroughs maintaining their representatives in parliament had not ceased in the early portion of the last century. Hall, whose collections were brought down to about 1739, speaking of Helstone, says, "This place and others in Cornwall were not able to maintain their burgesses in London during the sessions, at their own proper costs and charges (as of old was accustomed in any tolerable post or grandeur) but have found that profitable expedient (as many others) of making country gentlemen free of their town, who bear the burden and heat of the day for the honour of their corporations, distress their paternal estates for the reputation, and to perpetuate the privileges of a petty society made up of mechanics, tradesmen, and inferior practitioners of the law." The same author states that "Padstow, Lelant, and Marazion formerly sent members to parliament, but were excused upon their petition on the score of poverty."

NEWSPAPER READING.—From a parliamentary return lately issued, it appears that in England and Wales, and also in Ireland, the circulation of newspapers has nearly doubled in fourteen years; in Scotland it has more than trebled. In 1841 the aggregate number of stamps supplied to the newspapers of Great Britain and Ireland was 60,759,392; the number supplied in 1827 being only 31,205,116. It is a remarkable feature in the return, that though the largest aggregate number of stamps for the whole was taken out in 1841, the last year included in the return, the number of stamps taken by the newspapers of England and Wales were fewer in 1841 by 256,500 than in the preceding year; and in Ireland in the same period there is also a proportionate diminution, amounting in the year to 67,762 stamps; whilst in Scotland, during the same period, there has not only been no decrease, but an increase of 465,246 stamps in 1841 over 1840.

HABITS OF KING LOUIS PHILIPPE.—The king of the French enters this day (Oct. 6) his 70th year, and, I am happy to say, with every prospect of his going on well for some years to come. All reports which have been in circulation of his being afflicted with dropsy are utterly unfounded. He has no organic disease, and his general health is much better than is usually the case with ninety-nine men out of a hundred at his time of life. His habits are very regular, and, with the exception of his working hard up to a late hour of the night, or rather early in the morning, he does nothing which could, in the slightest degree, impair his strength. It is even doubtful whether this habit of sitting up is injurious to him, for it is not of new date, and has never yet been found hurtful. I am assured that five nights out of six the king is alone, writing, from eleven or twelve o'clock to three or four in the morning. It is at this time that he corresponds with his ambassadors, and with his secret agents at the various courts, and also prepares his notes for the business of the succeeding day. It is said also, but this is probably mere surmise, that he devotes regularly one hour every night to the writing of his own memoirs. Notwithstanding the late hour at which the king goes to bed, he rises early, and, when in the country, walks for some time in the open air before he sits down to breakfast. In Paris he takes exercise within doors. At breakfast he passes half an hour in cheerful converse with his family, and then devotes another half hour to the reading of the journals, as well those of the opposition as those devoted to the government; but, in addition to his own reading, he has a secretary whose exclusive business it is to direct the attention of the sovereign to all that is striking, whether it be in the

way of comment or news; and he receives besides a daily bulletin containing extracts from all the leading journals in Europe. Towards noon he gives audience to his particular friends, and to the men of science and art whom he patronises; and when this is over begins the daily and regular business of the state with his ministers and others; so that in the four and twenty hours he has only the five or six which he devotes to sleep free from occupation. With him, therefore, the kingly office is not a sinecure, to say nothing of the cares and anxieties which are peculiar to him amongst all the crowned heads of the world.—*From Paris Correspondent of London Globe.*

ARMORIAL MOTTO.—*Forth fortune, and fill the fetters*, is the marauding tocsin of the Athole family—*Come to me, and I will give thee flesh*, belongs to another Highland name—we forget which; the crest being an eagle, and the flesh prepared for him, the flesh of men. *E'en do, and spare not*, is borne by the McGregors. The family of Petre bears the same sentiment Latinised—*Usque fac et non parcas*. *Pereas non parcas*—Though thou shouldst perish. The borderers do not waste much breath. There is a business-like air about their maxims—an eye to black cattle and broth. *I hope to share*, is the unassuming, very intelligible, device of the Riddels. But this is not nearly so full and explicit as the motto of the great Cranstoun family—*Thou shalt want ere I want*. There are other mottoes besides, that seem as if they were made for the men who now bear them. *If I can*, says Colquhoun, of Killermount; no doubt of it. *Non nimium*—Not too much—is Lord Aberdeen's motto; while the Rae family has—*In omnia promptus*—which may be freely translated—Ready for anything. *Che sara, sara*, is the well-known motto of Lord John Russell. It is embodied in an expressive Scottish proverb—"He that will to Cupaur, maun to Cupaur." *Video et taceo*—I will see and hold my tongue—belongs to the Fox family. It is more characteristic of the name than of the men who have held it. *Aspera virtus*—a not very translatable complaint of the difficulty of being virtuous, or perhaps brave—is the property of the Sinclairs. Lord Stanley boldly sports, *Sans changer*!—Without change!—while Sir James Graham, in his own vernacular, mumbles—*Reason contents me*. *Templa quam dilecta*—How beloved are the temples—is the self-eulogium of the Buckingham temple—the farmers' friend. When Lord Liverpool got his peerage, he assumed the words *Palma, non sine pulvere*, which the opposition translated—This is the reward of my dirty work. Swift was not so liberal with Queen Anne's *Semper eadem*, which he paraphrased—Worse and worse.—*Tait's Magazine.*

MUSIC FAMILIAR IN GERMANY TO THE MASS.—Music is so much a national enjoyment that not only all young women, but almost all young men, play on the piano and sing. This is not only a great relief to the monotony of private life, and an elegant and refining enjoyment for the evening circle, especially to weary men, harassed or exhausted by the daily tug of their affairs, but is conducive to the pleasure of those agreeable little parties which abound so much amongst the Germans; where singing, a dance, and simple games, pass away rapidly the hours. Here there requires no hired musicians; one after another will sit down to the harp or piano, others will join in singing, and thus social pleasure can go forward most independently. So general are such accomplishments that they are much less thought of, individuals pride themselves much less upon them, than in England. They are rather regarded as the indispensable parts of education, as much so as reading and writing are.—*Howitt's Rural and Domestic Life in Germany.*

NEW MODE OF TEACHING.—The following is an extract from a report that is intended to illustrate the enormous success of the Wilderspin system:—Teacher—What is this that I hold in my hand? Children—A piece of glass. Teacher—What can you do with it? Children—Scrape slate pencil. Teacher—What else—what can your eyes do with it? Children—Look at it. Teacher—If you put it to your eye can you see through it? Children—Not if you shut your eye. Teacher—Can you break glass? Children—We'll try—(one child breaks a window). Teacher—Then glass is brittle? Children—Rather. Teacher—Will the shutter break? Children—We are not going to try that. Teacher (striking the shutter violently)—Now what have I done? Children—Made a great noise, and hurt your own knuckles. Teacher—What is wax? Children—A soft substance. Teacher—Is there any other sort of wax that is not soft? Children—Yes, the whacks you give us when we don't know our lessons. Teacher—What does a cow give us? Children—Nothing. Teacher—Well, what does the milkman give us? Children—He gives us nothing—we buy it. Teacher—What do we buy from him? Children—Milk and water. Teacher—What's this? Children—A frying pan. Teacher—What use does your mother make of it? Children—She sometimes beats father about the head with it. Teacher—Has your mother got a mangle? Children—No, she's sold it. Teacher—What colour is the orange? Children—Orange colour. Teacher—How large is this orange which I hold in my hand? Children—As big again as half. Teacher—How long will oranges keep in this climate? Children—Not a day, when you get hold of them. Teacher—That will do—you may go home. Children—Thankee, sir.—*Comic Almanack.*

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.—The waistcoats after Christmas are expected to be full, but the pockets are usually empty. There was considerable lightness in the arrangements for the head, especially in the streets on boxing night, and much spirit was evident among those who moved in their peculiar circles. In some instances the coat was brought down horizon-

tally, so as to lie level with the pavement, and the hat was worn a good deal off the head, while the watch and pocket handkerchief were left completely *degagé*. The coats, which were cut away a good deal last year, are not now seen, the wearers having cut away themselves; and in boots there is nothing new, those of last year having had such a run that it is impossible to come up with them. In trousers the twelve shilling Swedish are still the favourites. They are worn rather white at the knee, and are more or less shot with mud about the calves and ankles.—*Punch.*

USE OF A CHINAMAN'S TAIL.—On the subjugation of China by the Tartars, an edict was issued, requiring the whole nation to shave the front of the head, and to plat the residue of the hair into a tail, the length and size of which is considered in China a great mark of masculine beauty; in consequence of which, great quantities of false hair are mixed up with the natural hair, the ends being finished off with black silk cord. To the lower orders it is a useful ornament. I remember on one occasion, to have seen a Chinaman flogging his pig along with it; while on another, the servant was dusting the table; and when their belligerent propensities are excited (which is not often), they will twist each other's tails round their hands, pulling with all their strength, and enduring the most horrible torture, until one or the other cries out *Peccavi*.—*Bingham's Narrative.*

A TABLE TO CALCULATE WAGES.—Put down, first of all, the nominal wages received by your servant, which, by calculation, you will find to be the exact half of twice as much. Then subtract the fresh butter from the pantry, and the product will show you how often the best Dorset will go into the tub of kitchen-stuff. Then work out the sum: as the parlour Stilton is to the Dutch cheese, so is the cold meat to the young man who stands outside the area of an evening. Divide the contents of the tea-caddy into what you use yourself and what is used for you, and the quotient will be as one to six. Write these several results upon a slate, and by adding them up carefully you will be enabled to calculate how much your servant costs you.—*Punch's Almanac.*

HARD TIMES.—The editor of the *Kentucky Yeoman* lately received the following letter through the post-office—postage not paid:—"Mr Editor—Kin you tell me how a feller is to get along these hard times, what's in debt, and who aint got no money, no friends; and who are too honest to work, and too lazy to steel? If you kin, I will subscribe to your paper, provided you give trust."—*New York paper.*

SCARCITY OF FUEL.—Firewood is said to be so scarce in some parts of the Middle States, that a man with a wooden leg is afraid to venture out after dark, for fear of being robbed of it.—*New York paper.*

VARIETIES.

The various frost-fairs which have been held on the Thames, when the present time of year has been unusually severe, are as follows:—On the 1st of January, 1683, to the 24th of the same month; and again in 1716, 1740, and 1789. The last frost fair was celebrated in the year 1814, and continued ten days.

We have just heard of a curious and interesting practical application of a recent scientific discovery, which will somewhat startle our readers—the Chinese treaty was copied by the photographic process of Mr Fox Talbot; and the copy, so made, for the sake of securing perfect accuracy, is now deposited among the state papers.—*Athenaeum.*

The last census of the population of the city of Brussels makes the total amount 110,760, not including the garrison, the military school, and the patients in the hospital.

On Thursday evening week, a fire broke out at Netherby hall, the seat of Sir James Graham, Bart., but was extinguished before it had made any considerable progress, mainly by the exertions of the gardeners, who employed for that purpose a small engine used in watering the garden. The damage done amounted to about £80.

"Sir Peter Laurie," says a morning paper, "has shifted his seat from Trinity church, Marylebone, to St. George's, Hanover Square, in consequence of the adoption of the white surplice, &c., at the former."

A Parisian physician announces a pound of vinegar in the morning, another at noon, and a third at sunset, to be a perfect cure for hydro phobia.

A large quantity of powder from the Battle powder mills, has passed through New Romney for Dover. It is intended to be used to remove a portion of the Round Down cliff, about a mile and a half to the westward of Dover. The explosion will be tremendous.—*Kentish Gazette.*

The physician in attendance upon the sick poor in the Limerick workhouse lately prescribed for an old man, that he should be bled and his head shaved. The apothecary, mistaking the person, operated upon another old man, and both the patients died!

In Orkney the herring fishery has been very successful during the last month, particularly at Lewis, where herrings were selling a week ago at the low rate of 5s. a cran.

A gentleman residing at Milton, next Gravesend, a native of Faversham, who for many years carried on an extensive business at Ramsgate, after 11 years' study, has succeeded in completing some machinery, which will, when brought into use, he imagines, supersede the aid of steam power. It may, he thinks, be applied to clocks of any description, require no winding up when put together, and will continue going so long as the materials last.—*Times.*

Religious Intelligence.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY ON BEHALF OF CHINA.

A PUBLIC meeting of the friends and members of the society was held at Exeter hall, on Tuesday evening, the 17th inst., to adopt measures for strengthening and extending the society's Chinese missions. An hour prior to the time appointed for its commencement, the large room was crowded with a highly respectable assemblage. The chair was taken a few minutes before six by W. T. Blair, Esq., of Bath. The services were commenced by singing, after which the Rev. Dr. HENDERSON invoked the divine presence and blessing.

The CHAIRMAN on rising said, they were assembled that evening for the purpose of adopting measures for strengthening and enlarging the society's Chinese missions, and he thought they would agree with him it would be difficult to conceive of an object more interesting or more important that could by possibility be submitted to the consideration of a Christian audience. As to the particular cause or character of the late war in which they had been engaged, and which, by the providence of God, had brought them into the favourable position which they occupied that evening; they were not called upon, he thought, on the present occasion, to offer any opinion [hear, hear]. They were not met to consider the political or commercial relations of this question, but simply its moral and religious aspect, and their own duty as arising from it. He thought that both in the opening of China, and in the acquisition of our Indian territory, the hand of God might be traced, guiding and controlling the wild storm of human passions, causing the wrath and selfishness of man to praise him, and bringing good out of evil. Though there was certainly much to deplore and even to fear in some of the social and ecclesiastical or religious relations of our country, yet at the same time it was to his mind a cheering sign and an omen for good that there was in so many of the churches a growing disposition, particularly manifested of late, not only to extend the arms of mercy abroad, but to draw the bonds of brotherhood more closely at home. For what could be a greater defect or anomaly in the Christian character, or a more certain presage of weakness or deterioration, than to be professing an ardent attachment for the destitute heathen—for strangers and foreigners—if they should be found at the same time neglecting or trampling under foot the law which enjoins the love of the brethren, and many of these brethren even at their own doors? In reference to the providential opening, now presented to us in China, there was, he thought, a peculiar propriety in their taking the lead. They were the first to enter this field of labour, he believed, about forty years ago; and were they now to draw back, or even if they were not foremost in advancing, after the long preparation they have made, and the tokens of approbation which they have received, they would undoubtedly tarnish all the honour which they have gained from the unwearied zeal and success of those devoted men, the Morisons, the Milnes, and the Medhursts, who have so long laboured patiently as pioneers in the field, in the hope that others would enter into their labours. Nobly did he conceive the directors of this society had redeemed their pledge, and done their part in resolving to send out ten or twelve additional missionaries to China in the course of the next two years; and they were now preparing to make an appeal to the sympathy, the liberality, and the prayers of the churches to sustain their efforts. A resolution recently adopted by the directors had been put into his hand, which was not intended to be submitted formally to the meeting, but merely to be read as an expression of their sentiments upon an important and delicate question—viz., the opium question. It was to the following effect:—

"Resolved—That the board being deeply convinced of the multiplied evils that have arisen from the opium trade with China, and being painfully apprehensive that the continued importation of that drug into the Chinese empire by British merchants would be highly derogatory to our national character, and a most formidable obstruction to the progress of Christian missions, will promptly use means for obtaining from their missionaries and others such information as may guide them in the adoption of the best means with a view to aid in the suppression of that evil."

They would thus see that the directors were desirous of obtaining information that would enable them to act with power in reference to this question; but their object in wishing the resolution to be read to the meeting was to express an opinion through the Chairman, that it was unadvisable, in the absence of clearer information, to enter on a fuller discussion of the question on the present occasion [loud cheers].

The Rev. Dr. LEITCHFIELD, in moving the first resolution, congratulated the assembly on the somewhat singular circumstances and object that had called them together that evening. They were not met to deplore a failure of missionary enterprise in any direction; the blessing of God had been eminently bestowed on that institution; he had blessed it in all places, in some more than in others, but actually in all, and his smile was yet resting upon it. They were met to listen to, and obey that voice, which seemed to say to them, "Now, I have set before you an open door." He had said, the way had been opened for peaceful intercourse with China, and he should take the advice of their Chairman, in not referring to the awful means by which the present issue had been brought about, by an over-ruling, controlling, and wonder-working Providence, except it was to disclaim all sanction on their part to those means [hear, hear]. He thought it was incumbent on them when they were met together as Christians, to avail themselves of such an opening, not to let it be supposed that they had given their sanction to any of those awful means; not to relax in their testimony against the iniquity of war, and not to forbear their exultation and gratitude towards Him who was the author of peace, and lover of concord; and who had told them that among the many blessings which should result from the prevalence of his religion would be the abolition of war, the turning of the destructive weapons of war into implements for the cultivation of all the waste parts of the globe. The extension of Christianity would be the annihilation of war [cheers]. He was requested to move—

"That this meeting, consisting of the members and friends of the London Missionary Society, most cordially unites with the directors of that institution, in thanksgiving to God for the termination of war between China and Great Britain, and for the greatly enlarged facilities, secured by the treaty of peace, for the introduction into that vast empire of the multiplied and invaluable blessings of Christianity."

When we considered the period of time to which they had come, the prophecies in scripture that told them that, in the last ages, the whole world should see the salvation of God, he could not but entertain the most sanguine expectation of the auspicious results of this hopeful beginning. While China remained inaccessible to them, it seemed an empty boast to talk of the conversion of the world; for if all the nations of Europe, and all the inhabitants of the islands of the sea, and all the tribes of Africa had been converted, and China left out, it would have been the conversion of little more than half the world; for China was a world of herself [hear]. But who that examined these prophecies, and understood their meaning, and believed them, could doubt that a time would come when China herself would be brought, in some way or other, to admit the light of revealed truth, and to hear and obey the voice of "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?" Let Christianity once get fairly within her territories, who could doubt of its advancement and triumph? "I will indulge my fancy a little on the mighty revolution which the celestial empire is destined to undergo by the influence of Christianity, and the beneficial results that follow in her train. Her numerous institutions that have now for their object the welfare of the community at large, and especially of the common people, will all be sanctified and improved; and the rigour of her arbitrary government will be softened and rectified until it becomes an enlightened and paternal government. Then how will they rise in real knowledge; in acquaintance with the works—the wonderful works of God; in facilities for intercourse with the various parts of their immense territories, and in turning the products of their soil, and the mines abounding in that empire, into the best purposes for themselves and the rest of mankind. It was from the East that we first received the light of the Christian religion, to the knowledge and influence of which we are indebted for all our elevation and refinement, and though we have suffered the light sometimes to be clouded, and its beams almost to become extinguished, yet God has been pleased to raise up from time to time a body of men, to roll away the gathering darkness, and to make the sun of truth shine out afresh so as to reflect the beams back to the East from whence they came; and, though there never was a time when it would not have been a misnomer to call the English a truly Christian people—a really holy nation—and while it is evident that God has visited us with calamities and judgments for our sins, yet he has been pleased to spare us, to revive us again, and to remove the tokens of his displeasure; and though at this moment the lowering elements mutters his displeasure for abuse of our privileges, yet, notwithstanding the pride and luxury and libertinism of many in the upper classes—notwithstanding the grinding of the poor, and the withholding from them of their bread—notwithstanding the scepticism, and infidelity, and profaneness, and turbulence of the masses of society—notwithstanding the desecration of the Sabbath, and the neglect and contempt of the ordinances and institutions of the Christian religion, or what is, perhaps, not much better, representing them as converted into the substance of spiritual blessings—notwithstanding all these evils, God is raising up faithful men among us, and girding them with strength to diffuse and maintain the truth here, and to send it abroad; not as contained in creeds and catechisms, traditions and councils, but as contained in holy scripture, thus declaring among the inhabitants of the vast and mighty empire of China, that the Bible, that the Bible alone, is the religion of Christians" (loud and long continued cheers).

The Rev. Dr. ALDER (one of the secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society), in seconding the resolution, expressed his gratification at taking a part in a meeting like the present. He congratulated the Christian public that the London Missionary Society was in some degree prepared, at the present time, to assert the claims and extend the influence of Christianity in China. He did this with the greater promptitude and cordiality, because of the scenes he witnessed passing around him from day to day. Scepticism, irreligion, and worldliness, were combining against Christianity, as such, in its highest and holiest character; and the agents of the papacy were, with extraordinary activity, subtilty, energy, and perseverance, bearing the crucifix to confront the cross, wherever the cross is exhibited by a protestant missionary. It should be borne in mind that the society for the Propagation of the Faith raised about £120,000 last year; which large sum was to be chiefly expended to disseminate popery in Great Britain and America, and to support Roman missionaries who should go wherever there was a protestant mission established in any quarter of the globe. They must, therefore, under those circumstances, be up and doing [cheers]. He would say, then, proceed in this noble cause. Though they were not with their mission in person they should be with them in spirit. Should it please God to grant them early success in China, they shall rejoice with them; should the awful, the turbulent scenes which have been witnessed in Madagascar take place in China, and should the faithful patience of the missionaries be tried by the evils which might there be inflicted upon them, they would sympathize with them, and would pray for them, and in the mean time they would help them in this particular department of labour according to the extent of their very limited ability [cheers].

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

W. A. Hankey, Esq., moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting, ascribing all the glory to Him to whom it alone is due, reviews the various preparatory labours of the London Missionary Society, on behalf of China, through a period of nearly 40 years, with sincere satisfaction, and devoutly rejoices that the society is now blessed with a goodly band of faithful missionaries, who, by diligent and persevering study, are prepared to make known to the Chinese, in their own tongue, the wonderful works of God."

He gave a short history of the proceedings of the London Missionary Society, with respect to China. The directors of the society had, at a very early period, directed their attention to this country, but had been able to do but little. But God favoured their small efforts, and brought to them Morison. He was qualified, and sent out with special instructions to undertake, what the hand of Providence enabled him and his colleagues to effect—the translation of the scriptures into the Chinese language, and the completion of a Chinese and English dictionary (his sole work), to assist succeeding missionaries in acquiring that tongue. Morison went, and was covered by the divine hand in performing his work. He overcame all obstacles, and rendered himself eminent in his attainments in the language, and was employed, and confided in, by the servants of the East India

Company in China. At length, through their own publications, it became known to the rulers at home that Morison was a missionary—a name as odious to the ears of those in authority, in those days (he hoped it was otherwise now), as that of Elijah to the king of Israel [cheers]. Orders repeated were transmitted for Morison to be sent out of China, but he had become so essential to the interests of the Company and of the nation, that he could not be spared; and he (Mr. Hankey), who had had the means of being acquainted with the correspondence, was justified in saying, that the British people were greatly indebted to the London Missionary Society, for the eminent services rendered to it by their missionary, Morison, who might even be said to have fallen a sacrifice in its service. He died through fatigue and labour, in the suite of the British envoy, Lord Napier, in that series of events which at length brought on the crisis which now called the attention of the society, and of Christians in general, to the great duty of sending the gospel, not to, but into China.

The Rev. A. F. LACROIX, missionary from India, seconded the resolution, and brought forward a variety of arguments to induce exertion in the great work of evangelising China. He had intended to have brought under their notice another claim of China upon them as British Christians. It related to the opium question; but, as they had been informed at the commencement of this meeting that effective and proper measures would be taken to put a stop to that traffic, he would forbear urging the matter upon them at that time. Still, having been himself an eye witness of the injurious effects of opium smoking, he felt too deeply on this subject to be altogether silent, though he should not, in the least degree, touch upon any commercial or political matter in connexion with it. He would merely say, that in India his missionary brethren and himself had invariably found the use of opium to operate most fatally upon the progress of Christianity [hear, hear]. For not only did it stupify those who used it to such a degree as to blunt, nay, frequently almost entirely to extinguish, in them all those feelings and emotions of the soul which are requisite to constitute man a religious being; but it also gave vigour and strength to the worst and lowest passions of their nature, so as often to sink them to the level of brutes. Accordingly they had had but few inquirers from among the class of opium smokers; and where (as was the case in the church of which he was pastor) some of them had been admitted as members, after what was thought a thorough reformation, it was subsequently found necessary to cut them off from church fellowship, and that in every instance for crimes which could be traced clearly to their having unfortunately returned to the use of opium. The resolution was then put and carried without a dissentient.

The Hon. and Rev. B. W. NOEL, on rising to move the next resolution, was received with enthusiastic and reiterated cheers. He referred to the unfavourable effects that must have been produced upon the minds of the Chinese, by the exhibitions they had seen in almost every instance of British character and morals, but there were still many cheering prospects. If they could point to such an evangelist as Leang-Afa already in the heart of China, distributing Christian tracts to hundreds and thousands surrounding him, and then addressing to them the words of eternal life, why should not one hundred Leang-Afas arise by-and-by, if only their efforts were increased, and their prayers accompanied them [cheers]? Now, when they consider the point to which this question had been brought; the cheering accounts which missionaries had given, who had tracked every bay of the country from Petcheleo to Canton; the curious eagerness with which the natives thronged to receive the books which Europeans gave them, they might imagine that with tenfold more interest than before, they would be perused whenever a Chinese eye rested upon an English tract—a tract that would tell him of the religion of England—which would tell him of the geographical position of many of its inhabitants—and the character of its institutions. The Chinese might say these tracts tell us of that mighty people whose cannon we never ventured to meet; who threw down, as by enchantment, the fortresses which we believed impregnable, and before whom Tartar desperation could effect nothing. Would they not listen to the words with wonder, which told them, that those whom they thought were barbarians in the remotest parts of the earth, were a people more civilised, and more to be dreaded than those of the celestial empire. All this was preparing the way for the introduction of Christianity into China. If what his rev. friend, Mr. Lacroix, had said was true, that in India there were incredible obstacles to the entrance of the truth, and the fact of their being overcome were ingeniously made by him the reason why we should concentrate our energies in India, rather than in other parts of the earth, yet let them remember that the conquests of those obstacles were a proof that similar victories would await the faithful soldiers of the cross elsewhere. In China there was no caste enslaving and chaining the minds of men, as in Hindostan. There was no priesthood like the Brahmins, for the Bonzes of China were as much despised as the Brahmins were revered. In China there was no long chain of miracles—lying miracles, it is true, but believed by millions—which had everywhere met the statements of the Christian missionary in India, respecting the genuine miracles which establish the gospel of Christ. In China, there was no reverence for prescriptive faith—for a faith handed down from the remotest ages. It was therefore apparent, that the circumstances under which they were called to enter upon this novel field of missions were most inviting, and those eight missionaries, it might be presumed, by their long acquaintance, not with the Chinese language only, but with the Chinese character and habits, were now at last standing, as once the army of Israel stood on the banks of Jordan, and were looking to the land of promise, to the ultimate attainment of which they had devoted their hopes and their lives. He then moved—

"That this meeting deliberately and heartily approves of the measures adopted by the directors, for the removal of the Anglo-Chinese college from Malacca to Hong Kong, and for transferring the labours of the missionary brethren hitherto prosecuted in European settlements far distant from China to the island now ceded to Great Britain, and to such of the Chinese cities opened for commerce by the treaty of peace, as may appear most eligible for missionary efforts; and that this meeting, deeply sensible of the inadequacy of the present amount of agency, warmly approves and commends the resolution of the directors to increase the number of labourers already in the field."

He pointed out the necessity of employing native agency for sending the gospel into China, and the importance of Hong Kong as a station for this purpose. Nothing could be wiser than, at the present moment,

when they had this opportunity, to enter on the work, and establish a broad and deep foundation for missionary success, by beginning at once to train young men in the Anglo-Chinese college for missionary service in China. But it was obvious that their position at Hong Kong would be incomparably superior to that at Malacca. Malacca is 1,500 miles distant from Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, among the beautiful bays, where commerce will be directing its steps, amidst the lofty hills and the pure blue of its ocean, they could easily imagine how much readier a resort to that neighbourhood would be, not only for the poor immigrant from China, but for numbers of the more respectable classes, who, for purposes not strictly religious, would feel a strong desire to obtain a knowledge of the English language, which now, among the more intelligent of the Hindoos, so extensively prevailed, for the purpose of their own advancement in life. He felt a sort of regret at the abandonment of Malacca, which the removal of the college would necessitate. But at the same time, if a sacrifice must be made, no one could question that when one-third of the human race, scarcely known to us but by their crimes and their follies, asked for the humane interposition of England—if one sacrifice or other must be made, Ningpo, Shanghai, Amoy, Foo-chow-foo, and Canton, should not be left while these more distant places were regarded with greater interest. Here the tide of commerce was setting in; here European population was to be guided; here they were to exercise a sanctifying influence on the European community; here they were to set an example which a whole empire might see. He might almost use the powerful language of Napoleon. If he could say, as his army marched over the plains of Egypt, "Centuries are looking down upon us from the Pyramids;" so might they exclaim to the first missionaries that should enter China. "Centuries are looking down from the lofty mountains of the Himalayas, to see what the first evangelists will do to bring those benighted millions to the knowledge of the Saviour" [cheers]. He proceeded to point out the importance of having missionaries who, in addition to the one great requisite, should be men of energy, of learning, of medical knowledge—men who must be in Pekin what Morrison was in Canton. They wanted men the noblest and the best. They must not take Lacroix from Bengal, they must not take Moffat from Africa; but if ever they were to accomplish the work that God called them to perform, they must have new Lacroix, they must have other Moffats [cheers]. "Am I asked again why I take an interest in this work? It is because, when the Providence of God has called out a protestant army to march directly to the invasion of idolatry, and points out the road to victory, I behold one regiment ready for the work; and, as I hear the military music, and see the unfurled banners, and watch the gleam of the bayonets as they advance on the road of duty towards the goal of victory, I cannot resist the impulse I feel, as the subaltern of another regiment, to raise my voice and cheer them on [long-continued applause]. Yes, I must give my comrades a cheer from my heart, and then go back to urge my own regiment to follow as quickly as it can [renewed applause] to engage in a warfare that will break no widow's heart, that will throw no gloom over the orphan's home, but bring them undecaying joy in this world and the next."

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. JOHN CLAYTON, and carried. The Rev. A. TIDMAN read a list of subscriptions. The Rev. JAMES SHEPHERD gave an account of several contributions that had been received. He was much struck with the first offering to the cause. It was that of a poor man, who appeared in his working dress, and said, "I have eight half-crowns in my pocket, and good Dr Burder and Dr Morison have drawn them out; and I hope God will graciously bless this offering to the cause" [cheers]. The second was that of a poor widow, whose whole income was £80 per annum. She went to him some time ago, and stated that she had saved £10 for her funeral, but she thought it was better to give it to the missionary cause; and that the friends who would receive the little she had to leave might do her the kind office of burying her [cheers]. A servant girl, whose wages were not very large, requested him to accept ten shillings for the same object. A tradesman who has regularly contributed £20 per annum to the London Missionary Society stated his determination in future to make it £50. He added, that he might only live twelve months, and had therefore resolved to leave a legacy to the institution, but on reflection it occurred to him that government would take a tenth part of the money [hear, hear], and he had, therefore, resolved to become his own executor, and present a donation of £1000 to the society [loud and continued cheers]. He had, therefore, much pleasure in presenting to the secretary a check for £1000 from their friend William Flanders, Esq.

The Rev. THOMAS ARCHER then briefly moved— "That this meeting, fully aware that the measures necessary for strengthening and extending the society's Chinese missions must involve a considerable addition to its present expenditure—an expenditure to which its resources for several successive years have proved unequal, recognises the necessity of special efforts, to meet the solemn claims of providence on behalf of China, and hereby presents its assurance to the directors, of cheerful co-operation in their endeavours to meet the urgency of the occasion, and the magnitude of the enterprise; and, deeply conscious that the best concerted plans and the most strenuous exertions are powerless without the accompanying grace of the Holy Spirit, this meeting desires to combine with labour and zeal for the salvation of China, the spirit of humble dependence and earnest prayer."

The Rev. ROBERT MOFFAT next addressed the meeting, and was received with the greatest applause. He rejoiced in the proud position they were about to take with respect to China, and in the cordial kindness with which men of all denominations had received him. He was now carrying an enlarged edition of a Bechuana hymn book through the press, independently of numerous other things that called for his attention. He trusted he should be excused by those who expected to hear his voice, or to see a line from his pen, but whose expectations could not be realised. The latter, however, might still expect to hear from him, after he had been borne along the blue ocean, and had returned to the sable sons and daughters of Africa. But, whether they heard from him or not, they might rest assured that, while memory held her seat, while the understanding was on her pivot, he should never, no, never, forget the kindness he had received in his own land [loud cheers]. He heartily seconded the resolution, though he dared not say farewell. The Rev. gentleman then resumed his seat, amidst loud acclamations from every part of the hall.

The resolution having been put, and carried unanimously, a hymn was sung, after which the Rev. J. ARNOLD pronounced the benediction, and the meeting separated.

NATIONAL SAILORS' HOME AND EVANGELISING SOCIETY.—Pursuant to advertisement in last week's *Independent*, the annual general meeting of the supporters of this institution was held at Withers's Temperance hotel, Winchester terrace, for the purpose of receiving the accounts, and electing officers for the ensuing year. In the absence of every member of the board of management, with the exception of the Rev. J. L. Milton, corresponding secretary, Lieut. E. N. Kendall, R.N., was called to the chair. In consequence of the non-attendance of the treasurer and the minute secretary, the meeting had no detailed report of the society's operations, nor of the application of its funds. From Mr Milton's statements, in reply to the interrogatories of many present, it appeared the treasurer had never acted in his official capacity—that the names of many of the managers had been announced against their consent, and of the remainder a majority had withdrawn their connexion from the society—that the auditors were not invited to balance the accounts—and that no public meeting had ever sanctioned Mr Milton's proceedings. The society's affairs were from first to last in a most unsatisfactory condition; and the meeting felt satisfied that it possessed none of the features of a public institution, and could not be regarded otherwise than a scheme for obtaining the contributions of the benevolent under the garb of a religious society. A series of resolutions were put to the meeting, and carried without a dissentient voice, condemnatory of Mr Milton's irresponsibility in the application of monies collected, and declaring the *soi-disant* "National Sailors' Home and Evangelising society" dissolved as a public imposition. Lieut. Kendall having received cordial thanks for his kindness in presiding over its business, the meeting separated.—*Hants Independent*.

WARRINGTON.—On Thursday evening last a tea party, in connexion with Stepney chapel, was held in the Reformers' Hall, Warrington, when 250 persons assembled. John Rylands, Esq., occupied the chair; and we also noticed amongst those present the Rev. A. Rennison, clergyman of the Scotch church, Risley; and the following independent ministers, Rev. Messrs J. Hilyard of Runcorn, R. Massie of Newton, G. S. Spencer of Ashton, and R. Bowman of Airedale college. Wm Wilson, Esq., Thos Eskridge, Esq., T. G. Rylands, Esq., and other gentlemen. The arrangements for the proceedings of the evening had evidently been made with considerable care and judgment, and gave entire satisfaction. After tea, the chairman made some appropriate observations as to the object for which they had assembled, and concluded by introducing the Rev. Mr Rennison, who delivered an elegant and interesting address on the necessity of cultivating unity and harmony of feeling. The advocacy of the voluntary principle was entrusted to the Rev. R. Bowman, who, in eloquent terms, demonstrated the correctness of that great principle which gave energy to the exertions of the first Christian churches, and which is destined to be the means of the evangelisation of the world. The Rev. R. Massie energetically maintained the rights of conscience, with powerful appeals interspersed with his characteristic humour. The advancement of education in connexion with congregationalism was ably advocated by the Rev. J. Hilyard. Peter Rylands, Esq., directed the attention of the audience to the peculiar necessity of effort in the present day in connexion with dissent in a humorous speech, characterised by considerable historical information. The progress of opinion in reference to congregationalism was ably illustrated by Wm Wilson, Esq.; and the Rev. Mr Spencer followed with an interesting speech, shewing the intimate connexion between the progress of dissent and revivals of religion. The necessity of providing suitable accommodation for the worship of God was pointed out by Mr Wallington; and the proceedings of the evening were concluded by an address from Mr H. P. Mather, on the necessity of prayer to secure the divine blessing. We understood that the provisions were gratuitously supplied by the ladies, and that the entire proceeds of the tea party are to be appropriated to a fund which has been commenced for the erection of a new independent chapel, which is regarded as absolutely necessary for the progress of congregationalism in Warrington. An excellent band was in attendance, which, during the evening, gratified the audience by selections of sacred music. The party broke up between ten and eleven o'clock highly gratified with the proceedings.

FOREST OF DEAN, GLOUCESTER.—A new baptist church was formed at Woodside, Little Dean, on Tuesday, the 17th inst. In the afternoon, Brethren Tyndall and Rowe offered prayer, and Brother Brewer formed the new church. In the evening, Brother Jenkyn offered prayer and Brethren Yates, Rodway, and Cross addressed the meeting. A lively interest was manifested throughout, with uninterrupted harmony, and it is hoped the services proved beneficial to all present.

AMERICAN MISSION IN CHINA.—While we in England are discussing the propriety of making Hongkong a missionary station, our American brethren have already anticipated us, and have commenced operations. From an article in the *Calcutta Christian Observer*, it appears that Mr Shuck took up his residence at Hongkong in March last, and Mr Roberts has also fitted up a house for himself at Chekehu, a small village on the southern side of the island, containing about 2,200 inhabitants, where he has collected a few scholars and conducts services on the Lord's day both in English and in Chinese. A commodious chapel has been erected at Hongkong, by subscription, under the superintendence of Mr Shuck, in which service will be performed in both languages. Dr Bridgman has also removed to Hongkong, for the better prosecution of missionary objects.

Other American missionaries have taken up positions at Chusan, Amoy, and Ting-hai; while the operations of the "Medical Missionary society" have been successfully prosecuted in their hospital at Macao, under the superintendence of Dr Hobson, assisted by Dr Lockhart, the number of patients, in the course of eleven months, amounting to 3,826.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 16, the wife of the Rev. S. ELDRIDGE, Brixton, Surrey, of a son.

Jan. 15, at Cheltenham, the lady of T. JACOMB, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 16, at Salem chapel, Barnsley, by the Rev. Charles Wilson, Mr JOSEPH HAWCROFT, confectioner, to MARY, daughter of Mr Richard MOWBRAY, of Aldham, near the former place.

Jan. 16, at Bolton street chapel, Salford, by the Rev. D. Howarth, Mr STEPHEN JEPSON, to Miss ELIZABETH CARTER, both of Pendleton.

Jan. 15, at St Chad's chapel, Manchester, Mr NICHOLAS DUCKWORTH, engraver, of that town, to Miss BRIDGET CAVANAGH, of Oswaldswistle.

Jan. 16, at New Park street chapel, Southwark, by the Rev. J. Smith, EBENEZER HARDING, of John street, Blackfriars, eldest son of the Rev. J. Harding, of Deptford, Kent, to MARIA LOUISA, eldest daughter of Mr Frederick SLEE, of Brunswick street, Blackfriars road, London.

Jan. 18, at Brunswick chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. Thomas Haynes, Mr J. B. PORTKOUS, of Packstone, near Poole, Dorset, to ELIZABETH, third daughter of Mr W. ARMSTRONG, of Brunswick square, Bristol.

DEATHS.

Jan. 22, at Siloa independent chapel, in the town of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, an old woman named RACHEL THOMAS, in an awfully sudden manner. When the congregation were singing the last hymn, she was observed leaning her head on the arm of her son, who was sitting by her, and in less than a minute she expired without a groan. It was only a few minutes before that she partook of the Lord's supper. The congregation were awfully struck at the scene.

Jan. 19, Mr CHARLES BROOKER, of Alfriston, near Brighton. The deceased died suddenly in a fit of apoplexy. He was a gentleman of great liberality, and a staunch friend of the working classes, having twice stood for the borough of Brighton in the chartist interest. He attended the late Birmingham conference as a delegate from Brighton.

Jan. 15, at Burley terrace, near Leeds, aged 57, after a long illness, borne with Christian resignation, JANE, wife of Mr Joseph GREEN, and eldest daughter of the late Rev. Angus Hutton, of Felton, Northumberland.

Jan. 18, in New Basinghall street, in his 37th year, JOHN ATKINSON, Esq., many years a member of the court of Common Council, and deputy of the ward of Cripplegate Without.

Jan. 14, BENJAMIN ANSTIE, Esq., of Devises, Wilts, aged 55.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Jan. 20.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

CHARD, HENRY, Liverpool, merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

EDGE, ELIZABETH, Dawley-green, Shropshire, victualer, Jan. 28, Feb. 22; solicitor, Mr Bradley, Wellington.

EVANS, CHARLES, 132, Whitechapel-road, and 134, Houndsditch, City, potato dealer, Feb. 1, March 7; solicitor, Mr W. G. Watta, 231, Bermondsey-street, Surrey.

HALL, EDWARD THOMAS, and JAMES, Leeds, flax spinners, Jan. 31 and Feb. 28; solicitors, Mr H. Walker, 13, Farnival's-inn, London, and Mr J. Blackburn, Leeds.

HUNT, RICHARD, Kingston-upon-Hull, hosier, Feb. 1, 22; solicitor, Mr T. Haigh, Highbury, near Wakefield.

LONG, SAMUEL MAW, late of Bodney-hall, Norfolk, and now of Enfield, Middlesex, limeburner, Jan. 26, Feb. 21; solicitors, Messrs Lawrance and Benkarne, Bucksbury, London.

MORGAN, WILLIAM, Cheltenham, builder, Feb. 3, March 3; solicitor, Mr Packwood, Cheltenham.

PRICE, DANIEL KERLE, and DANIEL, 6, Pilgrim-street, Ludgate-hill, City, warehousemen, Feb. 3, March 3; solicitor, Mr G. W. Armstrong, 33, Old Jewry.

SENIOR, JAMES, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, manufacturer, Feb. 2, 23; solicitors, Messrs Barker and England, Huddersfield.

WOODALL, WILLIAM HARRY, 70, Bishopsgate-street without, woolen draper, Feb. 4, Mar. 3; solicitor, Mr G. Goddard, 107, Wood-street, Cheapside.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

DRYSDALE, ROBERT and JOHN, Alva, Stirlingshire, manufacturers, Jan. 26, Feb. 17.

LINDSAY, JOHN and Co., Glasgow, calenderers, Jan. 25, Feb. 15.

STITT, JOHN, Glasgow, lace-merchant, Jan. 26, Feb. 23.

Tuesday, January 24.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Baptist chapel, Whitechurch, Hampshire. Thomas Pain, superintendent registrar.

BANKRUPTS.

BEAR, JOHN, Ramsgate, draper, Feb. 3, March 7; solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street.

CLARKSON, THOMAS CHARLES, late of Louth, Lincolnshire, but now of 55, Commercial road, Lambeth, tanner, Jan. 31, March 2; solicitor, Mr Lloyd, Cheapside.

EYRE, THOMAS, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, corn merchant, Feb. 6, Mar. 3; solicitors, Mr James Scott, 25, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Mr William Plaskitt, Gainsborough.

JONES, THOMAS, Liverpool, coal dealer, Jan. 31, Feb. 17; solicitors, Messrs Woodcock and Part, Wigan, and Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London.

LONGSTAFF, ABRAHAM, Roughton, Lincolnshire, auctioneer, Feb. 7, 28; solicitor, Mr Joshua Wallaby, Horncastle.

LUMLEY, JOHN, Kirkby Fleetham with Fencote, Yorkshire, brewer, Feb. 10, 27; solicitors, Mr Prest, Marsham, and Mr Bond, Leeds.

MATTHEWS, ARTHUR, Robertsbridge, Sussex, apothecary, Feb. 3, March 1; solicitors, Messrs Kedwell and Co., 34, Lime street.

PARKER, HUGH, SHORE, OFFLEY, BREWEN, JOHN, and RODGERS, JOHN, Sheffield, bankers, Feb. 15, 17, March 1, 8, 15; solicitor, Mr Albert Smith, Sheffield.

PATTISON, JOHN, of Bridlington quay, Yorkshire, saddler, Feb. 9, 28; solicitors, Mr Horatio Barnett, Walsall, and Mr John Blackburn, Leeds.

POWER, JOHN, and WALLACE, JOHN, Liverpool, merchants, Feb. 2, March 7; solicitors, Mr Robert Norris, Liverpool, and Messrs Norris and Co., Bartlett's buildings, Holborn, London.

ROBERTSON, JAMES, Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 3, 28; solicitors, Mr Carson, Liverpool, and Mr Brady, 1, Staple inn, London.

ROSE, FREDERICK, Watton, Hertfordshire, innkeeper, Jan. 31, March 7; solicitor, Mr Sidney Smith, Barnard's inn.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ADAMS, WILLIAM, Edinburgh, glass and china merchant, Jan. 30, Feb. 14.

ARMSTRONG, GEORGE, Edinburgh, merchant, Jan. 30, Feb. 20.

COLLIE, JOHN, Aberdeen, grocer, Jan. 30, Feb. 20.

CRAWFORD, WILLIAM, Laverock bank, Trinity, near Edinburgh, merchant, Jan. 30, Feb. 20.

CURRIE, ANDREW, Irvine, Ayrshire, rope and sail maker, Jan. 28, Feb. 17.

DALZIEL, JOHNSTON, Dingwall, writer, Jan. 31, Feb. 20.

KIRKALDY, WILLIAM, Dundee, merchant, Jan. 31, Feb. 27.

LITTLETON, DANIEL, Edinburgh, newspaper proprietor, Jan. 30, Feb. 21.

NELSON, REV. THOMAS, minister of the parish in Auchtergavich, Perthshire, and Perth, baker, Feb. 1, 22.

RITCHIE, ROBERT, Green Style, Kildrummy, cattle dealer, Jan. 27, Feb. 17.

SMITH, WILLIAM, Dumfries, tallow chandler, Jan. 30, Feb. 20.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The funds have risen nearly 1 per cent since the end of last week, in consequence of an unexpected demand for stock on the part of some brokers connected with West-end establishments, but the rise is not likely to be permanent.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	94½	94½	94½	95	95	95
Ditto for Account	94½	94½	94½	95	95	95
3 per cent. Reduced	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½
3½ per cent. Reduced	101½	102	102	102	102½	102½
New 3½ per cent.	100½	101	101	101½	101½	101½
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock	172½	171½	172½	172½	172½	172½
India Stock	262½	261½	—	262	—	—
Exchequer Bills	64pm	65pm	65pm	63pm	64pm	65pm
India Bonds	59pm	60	59pm	60pm	—	—

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	39	London and Brighton	37½
Birmingham & Gloucester	47	London & Croydon/Trunk	9½
Blackwall	5	London and Greenwich	5½
Bristol and Exeter	49	Ditto New	15
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	28	Manchester & Birm.	20½
Eastern Counties	84	Manchester and Leeds	70
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	64½
Great North of England	58	Ditto Quarter Shares	—
Great Western	91	North Midland	63½
Ditto New	64	Ditto New	—
Ditto Fifth	87	South Eastern and Dover	22½
London and Birmingham	211	South Western	63½
Ditto Quarter Shares	48	Ditto New	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	111	Mexican	32½
Belgian	102½	Peruvian	18½
Brazilian	73½	Portuguese 5 per cents	44
Buenos Ayres	23½	Ditto 3 per cents	24
Columbian	23½	Russian	114
Danish	85½	Spanish Active	18½
Dutch 2½ per cents	52	Ditto Passive	4
Ditto 5 per cents	102½	Ditto Deferred	—

MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Jan. 23.

There was more wheat offering to-day than for some time past, and the condition of the samples being a good deal affected by the damp state of the weather, low prices had to be accepted before any progress could be made in sales; fine qualities were 2s., and other sorts 3s., per quarter cheaper than last week.

Barley was likewise very difficult of disposal, and must be quoted 1s. per quarter lower.

The quantity of beans and peas on sale was not large, and the previous value of these articles was supported.

Of oats there were few offering, and purchases of good corn could not have been made at lower rates.

Wheat, Red New	46 to 50	Malt, Ordinary	42 to 52
Fine	48 to 54	Pale	54 to 58
White	48 to 52	Peas, Hog	26 to 29
Fine	52 to 56	Maple	29 to 31
Rye	32 to 36	Boilers	30 to 33
Barley	22 to 24	Beans, Ticks	25 to 27
Malting	28 to 32		

Beans, Pigeon	30 to 32	Wheat	20s. 0d.
Harrow	29 to 31	Barley	10 0
Oats, Feed	16 to 18	Oats	8 0
Fine	20 to 22	Rye	1 6
Poland	20 to 22	Beans	11 6
Potato	19 to 22	Peas	10 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 20.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	47s. 10½	Wheat	47s. 2½
Barley	26 5	Barley	26 6
Oats	16 11	Oats	17 2
Rye	29 4	Rye	29 4
Beans	27 5	Beans	28 9
Peas	29 7	Peas	31 0

SEEDS.

The demand for clover seed does not augment much, and having a fair quantity offering this morning sales proceeded slowly. In the value of other descriptions of seeds little change has occurred, and the only article actually cheaper was Canary.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt
English, sowing	48s. to 56s.	English, red	40s. to 56s.
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	42 to 58
Ditto, crushing	42 to 45	Flemish, red	42 to 46
Medit. & Odessa	45 to 46	Ditto, white	—
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb. red	—
Large	46 to 48	Ditto, white	40 to 60
Canary, new	64 to 65	Old Hamb. red	40 to 43
Extra	65 to 66	Ditto, white	—
Caraway, old	—	French, red	40 to 48
New	42 to 44	Ditto, white	—
Ryegrass, English	30 to 42	Coriander	10 to 16
Scotch	18 to 40	Old	16 to 20
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per ton
Brown, new	9 to 11	English	31½ to 33½
White	9 to 10 6	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	18 to 22	English	10½ to 10½ 10s.
Old	12 to 16	Foreign	7½ to 7½ 10s.
Tares, new	4 to 5	Rapeseed cakes	5½ 5s. to 6½

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Jan. 23.

The proceedings since our last present little of variety. In butter there is not much doing. The change to mild weather operated to check the demand and to limit the transactions, but prices were supported. Carlow, 78s. to 98s.; Carrick, 80s. to 86s.; Kilkenny, 88s. to 92s.; Cork, 82s. to 84s.; Limerick, 71s. to 76s. landed. Foreign—Friesland, 116s.; Kiel, 102s. to 110s.

Bacon in slow and trifling demand, in price the turn cheaper. Bale and tierce middles, hams, and lard, in limited request, and prices a shade lower.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Jan. 23.

Prices for hops of this year's growth are rather better since our last, and the quotations are as follows for pockets, bags being very scarce—Wealds, 79s. to 87s.; East Kent, 101s. to 141s. and Sussex 77s. to 83s. per cwt. Farnham, 140s. to 160s.; pockets of 1841, 60s. to 70s.; choice ditto, 70s. to 84s.; and bags, 60s. to 80s.; old old, 35s. to 42s. per cwt.

Accounts from the German breweries state that cargoes had been received from the United States, some of them being, however, of very unequal quality. The duty on foreign hops brought to England is £4 14s. 6d. per cwt.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Jan. 23.

There was a very sluggish inquiry for beef, owing chiefly to the immense quantities of country slaughtered meat in the dead markets. Sheep were in fair average arrival, and somewhat better in quality, though numbers of them were extremely lame; prices had a downward tendency, and a clearance was not effected. There were few calves on the market, and they sold freely at advanced rates.

Price per stone of 14 lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d.	Veal	4s. 2d. to 5s. 4d.
Mutton	3 0 to 4 4	Pork	3 10 to 4 8

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday 459	2,210	128	383
Monday 2,698	26,720	76	381

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Jan. 23.

Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.	Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.	Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.	Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.
Inferior Beef 2s. 10d. to 3s. 0d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 0d. to 3s. 2d.	Middling do 3 0 to 3 2	Mid. ditto 3 4 to 3 8
Middling do 3 0 to 3 2	Prime ditto 3 10 to 4 0	Prime large 3 2 to 3 4	Prime ditto 3 10 to 4 0
Prime small 3 4 to 3 6	Veal 4 4 to 5 4	Large Pork 3 6 to 4 0	Small Pork 4 2 to 4 6

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Jan. 23.

The receipts for the week areas follows, viz. from Yorkshire, 975 tons; Scotland, 440; Devonshire, 225; Jersey, 110; Wiltshire, 90. Total, 1840 tons.

York reds	50s. to 60s.	Kent, whites	40s. to 45s.
Scotch ditto	40 to 45	Guernsey ditto	40 to 45
Devons	45 to 50	Wiltshire	40 to 45

COTTON.

The transactions in cotton have been moderate. 3,500 bales have met with purchasers at late quotations, and the market has been liberally supplied.

WOOL.

There has been rather more doing in sales of combing wool this week, and prices are firmer at our quotations. In clothing wools we have not any alteration to notice either in demand or prices.

Down ewes 0s. 10d. to 0s. 10½d.	Hf-bred hogs 1s. 0d. to 1s. 0½d.
Down teggs 0 11 to 1 0	Flannel wool 0 8½ to 1 0
Wethers 0 10 to 0 11	Blanket wool 0 5 to 0 7½

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Jan. 21.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow	60s. to 75s.	New Clover Hay	80s. to 110s.
New ditto	—	Old ditto	—
Useful old ditto	80 to 84	Oat Straw	40 to 42
Fine Upland do	85 to 90	Wheat Straw	43 to 45

COAL EXCHANGE, Jan. 23.

B. Hetton's, 20s. 6d.; Hetton's, 20s. 3d.; Lambton's, 20s. 3d. Stewart's, 20s. 3d.—Ships arrived this week, 50.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, JAN. 24.

TEA.—Not any public sales advertised, but the trade are operating with great caution, and although prices cannot be quoted lower, still the market wears a heavy appearance.

COFFEE.—Prices are still drooping, and we did not hear of any operations of note. Good ordinary Ceylons are quoted at 56s. to 56s.; good company's Java, of which there are several parcels advertised for public sale, are 41s. to 43s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The market is heavy, and the trade have bought at a reduction of 1s. per cwt on last week's prices. 10,000 bags Mauritius were sold; good to fine yellow fetched 61s. to 66s.; middling to good grey, 56s. to 62s. per cwt. Bengal sugar was sold at lower rates. Foreign sugars are firm. The refined market is very dull; prices are not quoted lower than last week, but there is little doing.

TALLOW.—First sort yellow candle is 46s. 9d. to 47s. per cwt on the spot. For the last three months, there are sellers at 45s. 6d. per cwt.

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